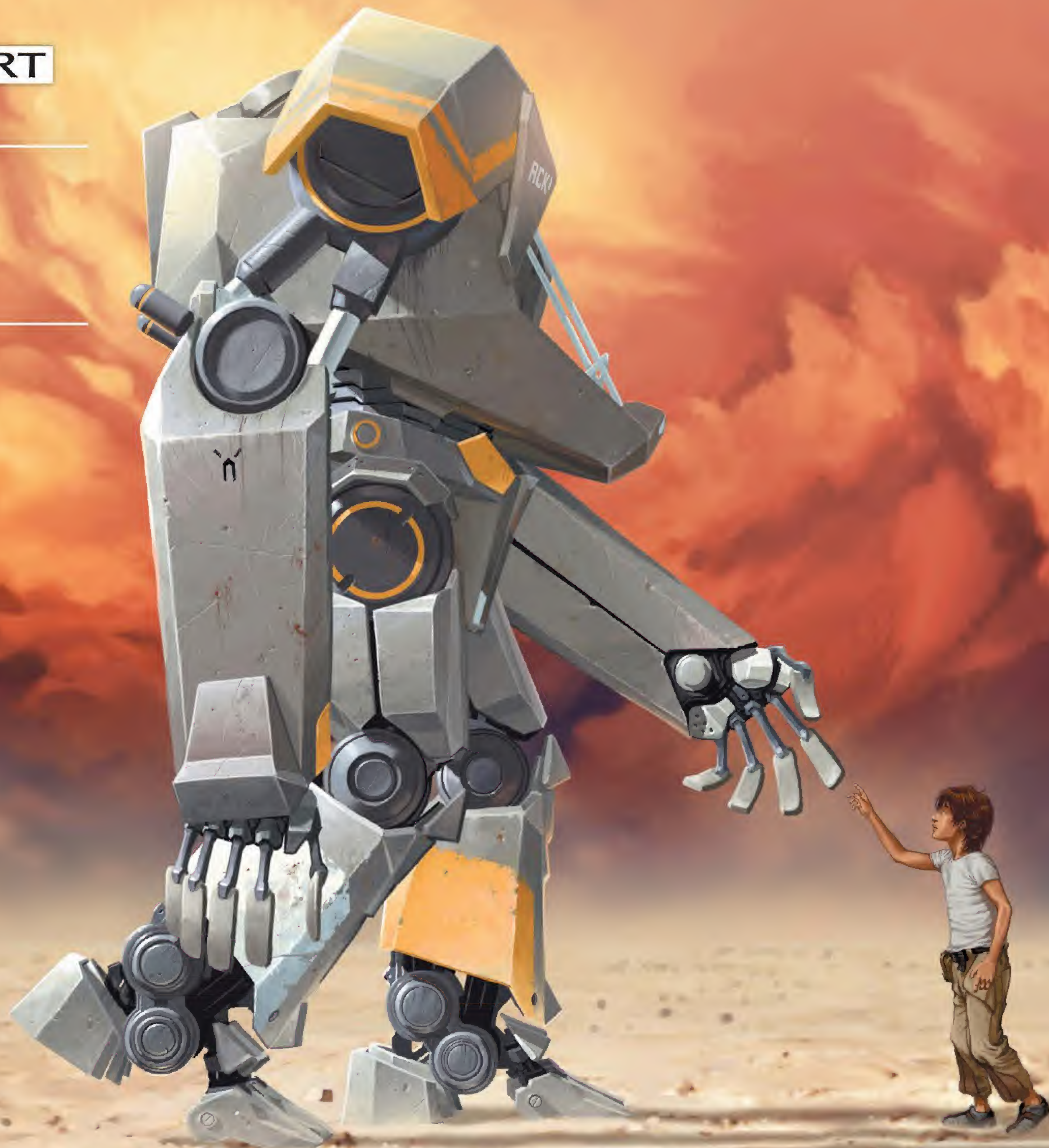


DEL COURT

1



ROCK & STONE

J E A N + V A L E A N I + G E O R G E S

ROCK & STONE
Volume 1/2

Script
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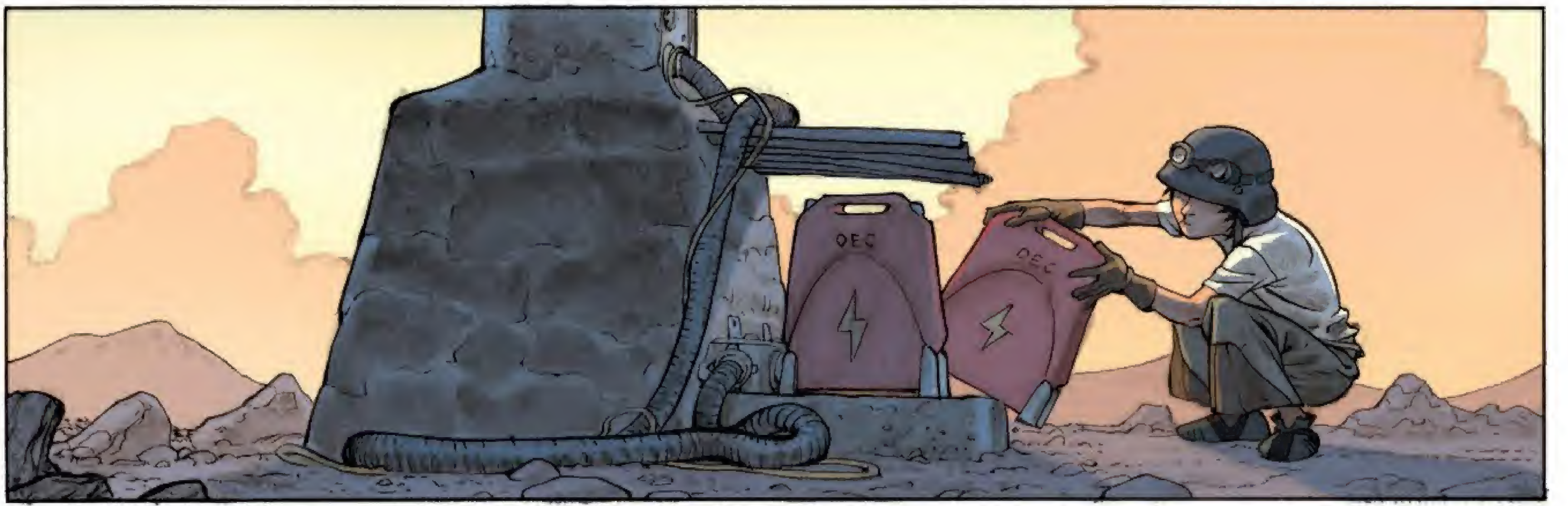
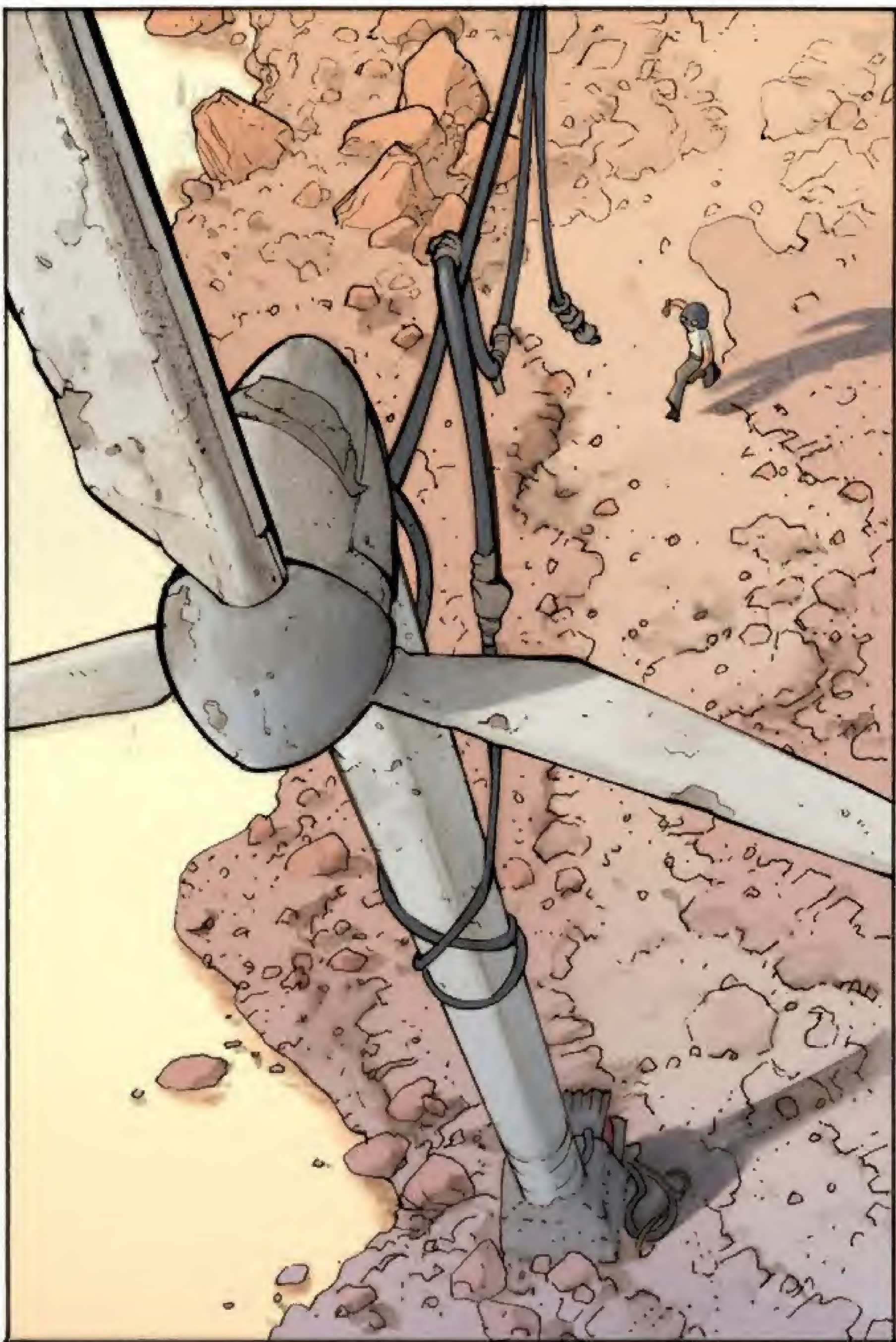
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CALDORIA.

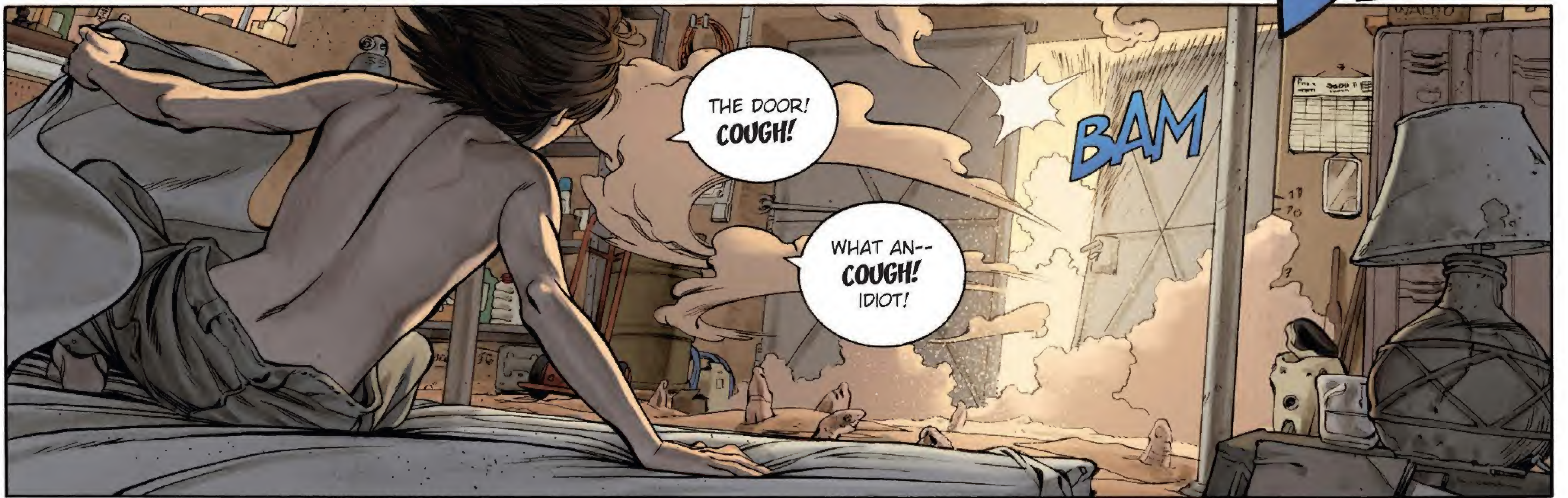
SECOND PLANET IN
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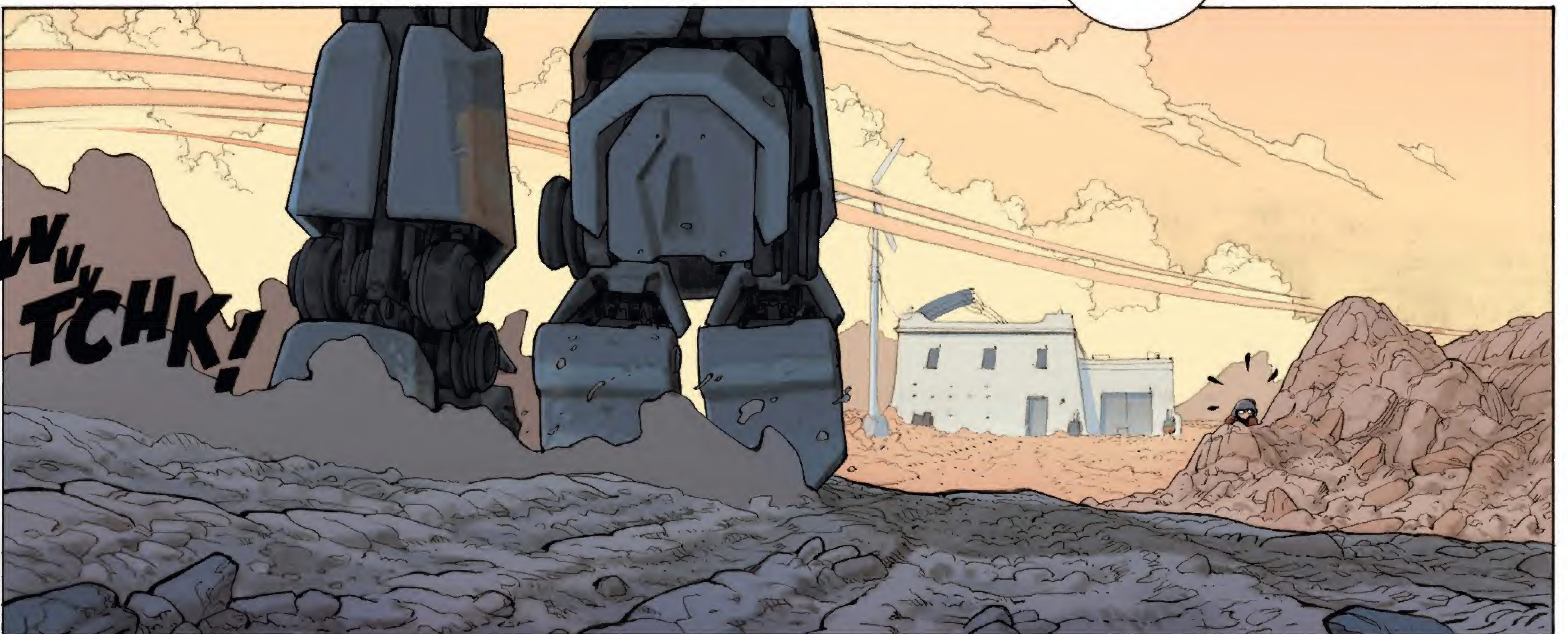
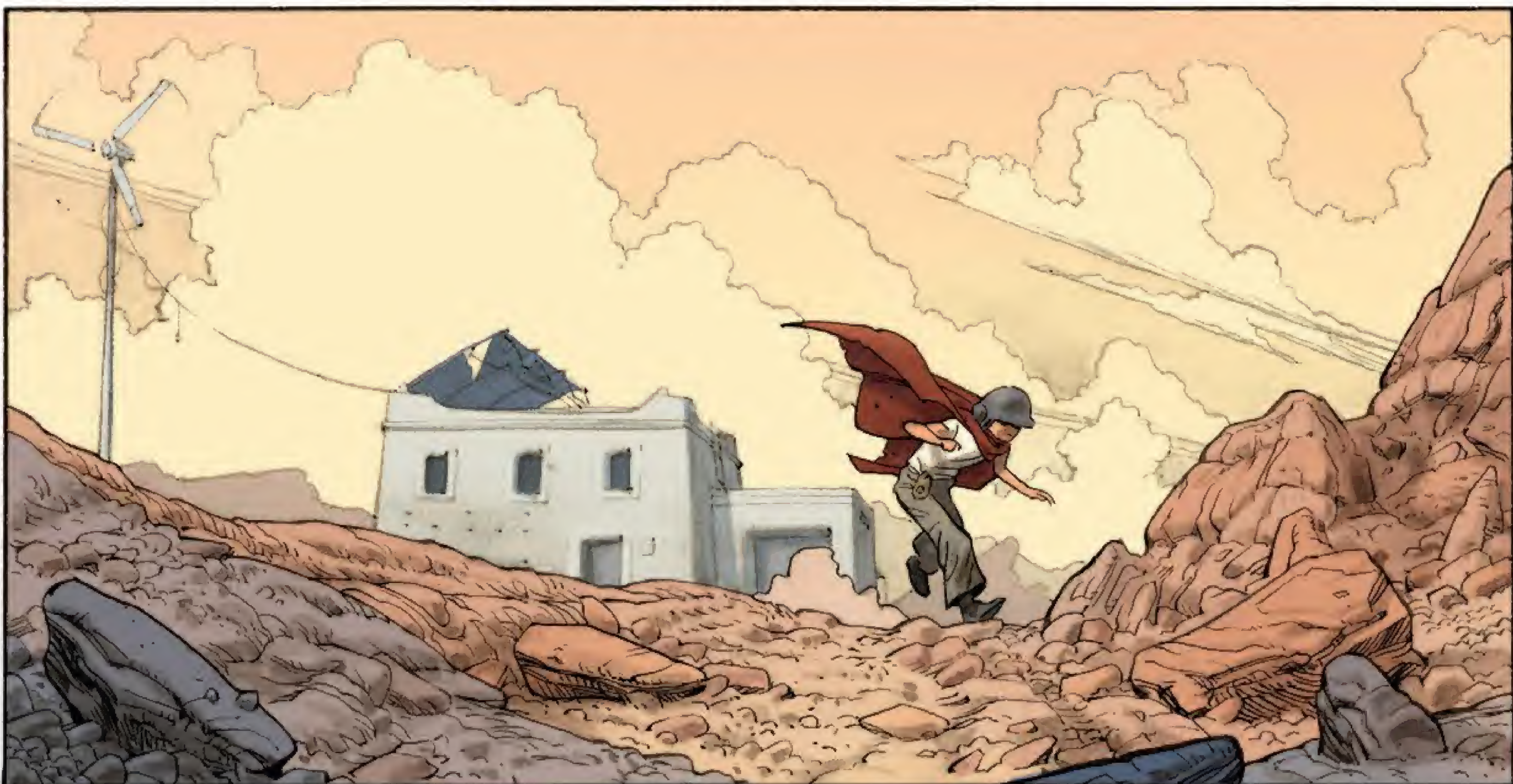
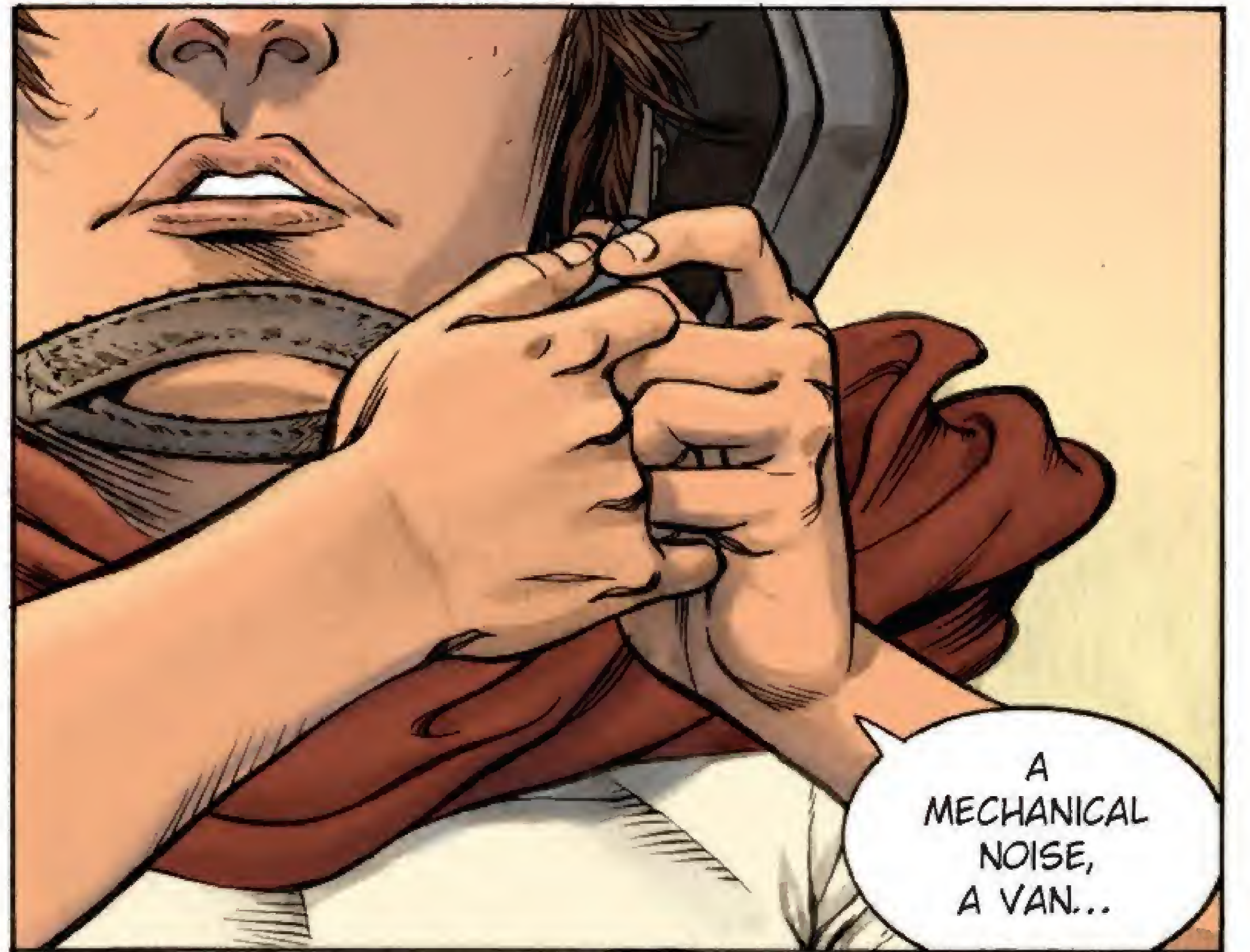
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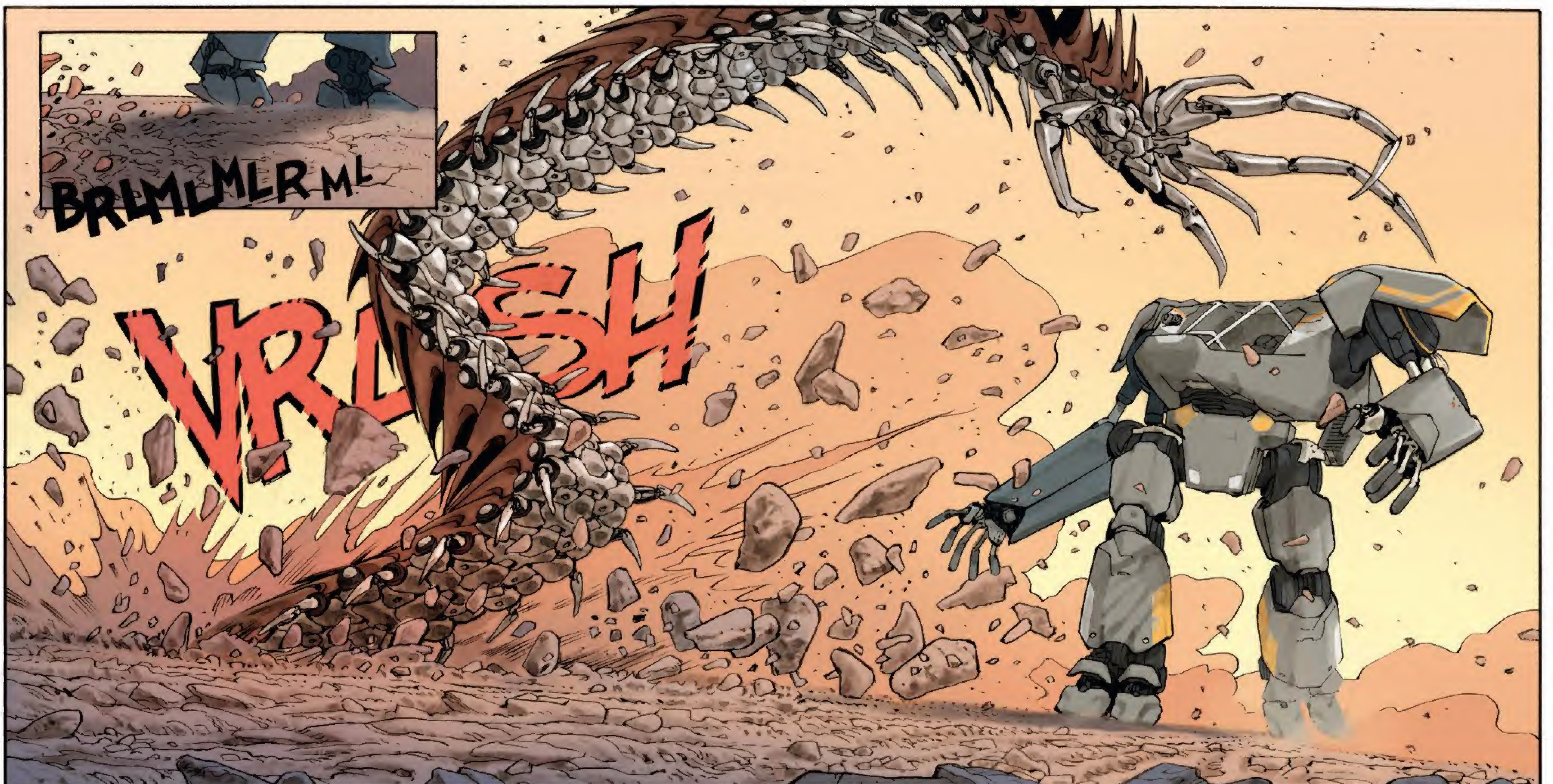
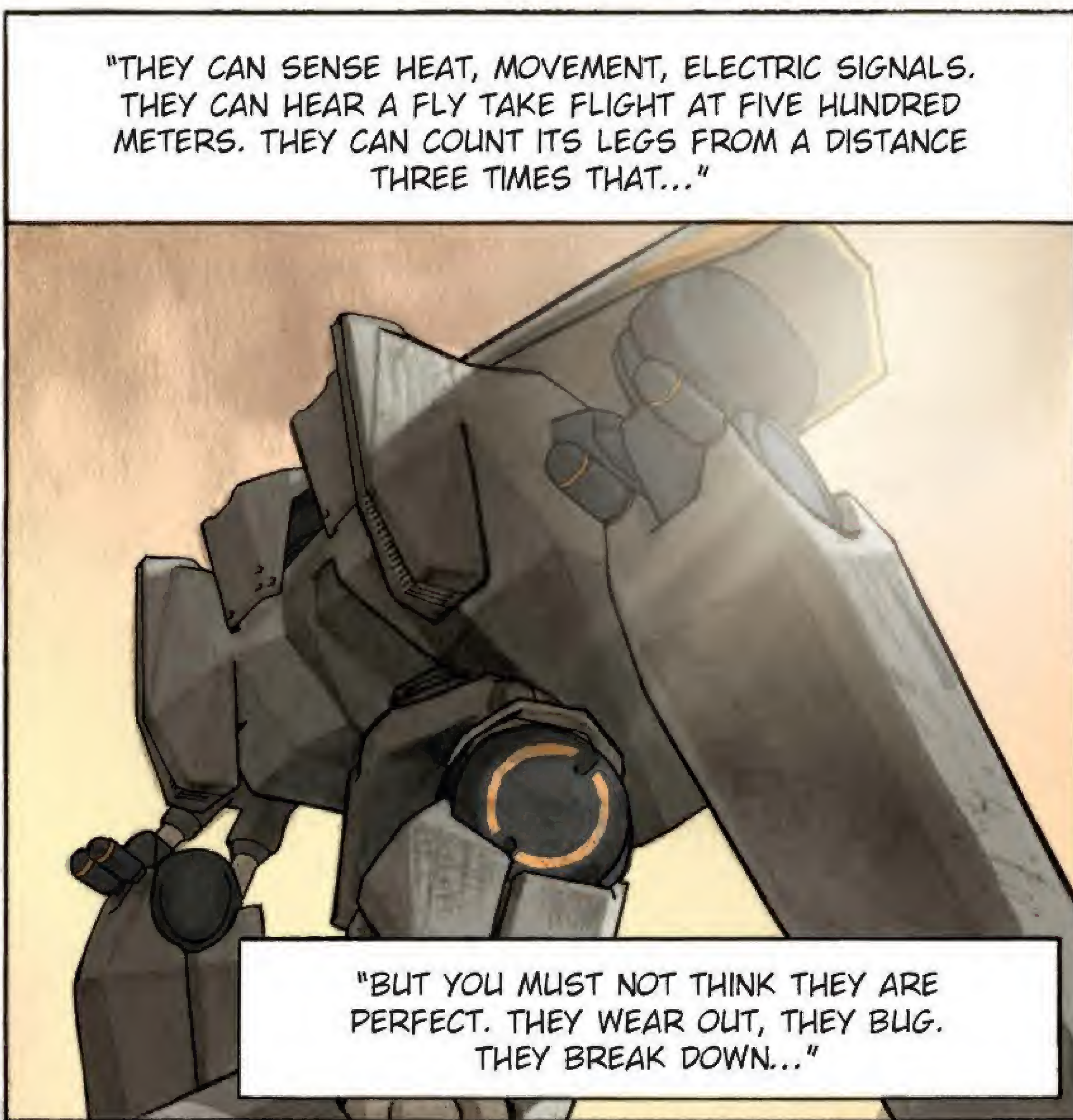
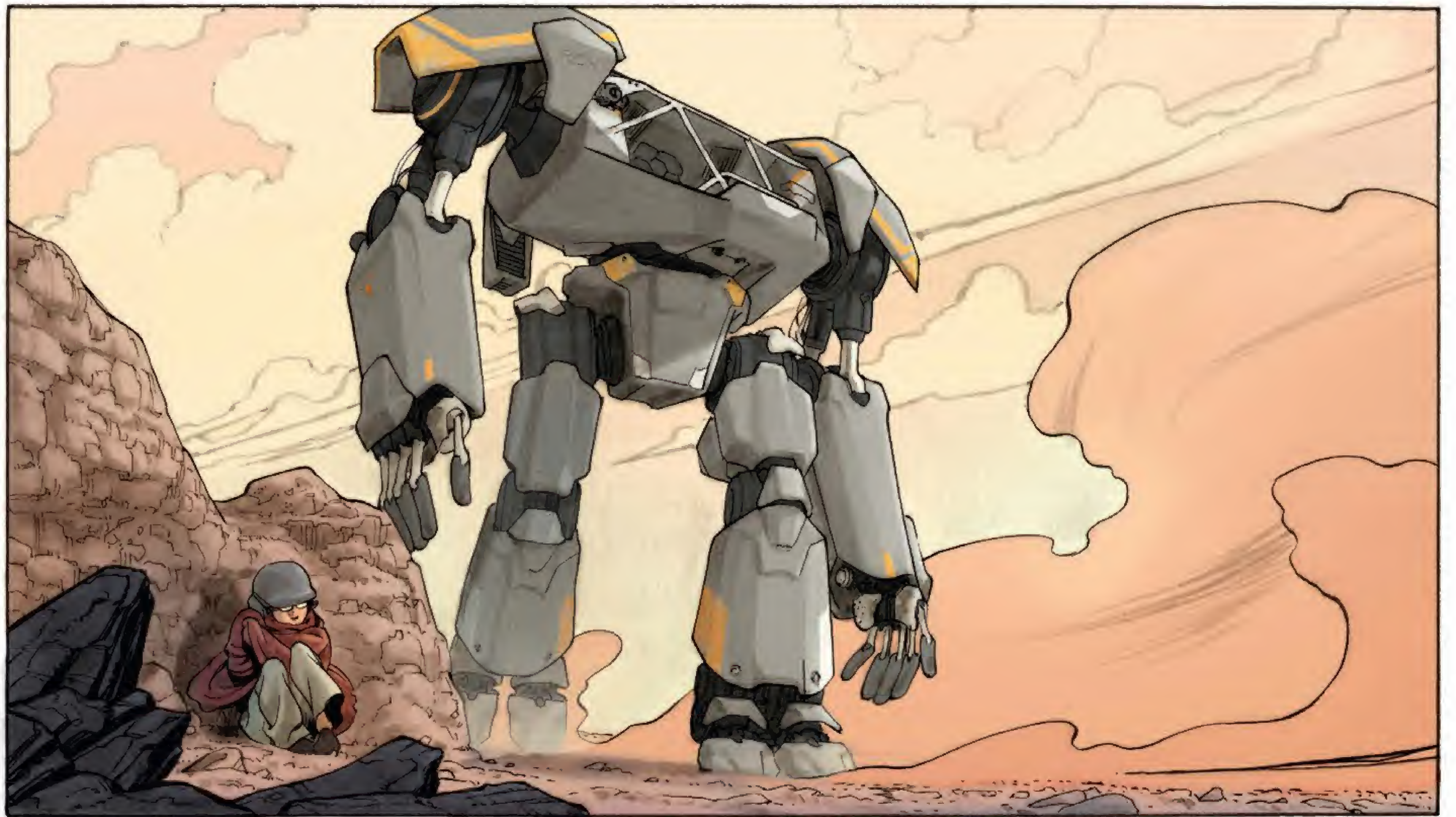


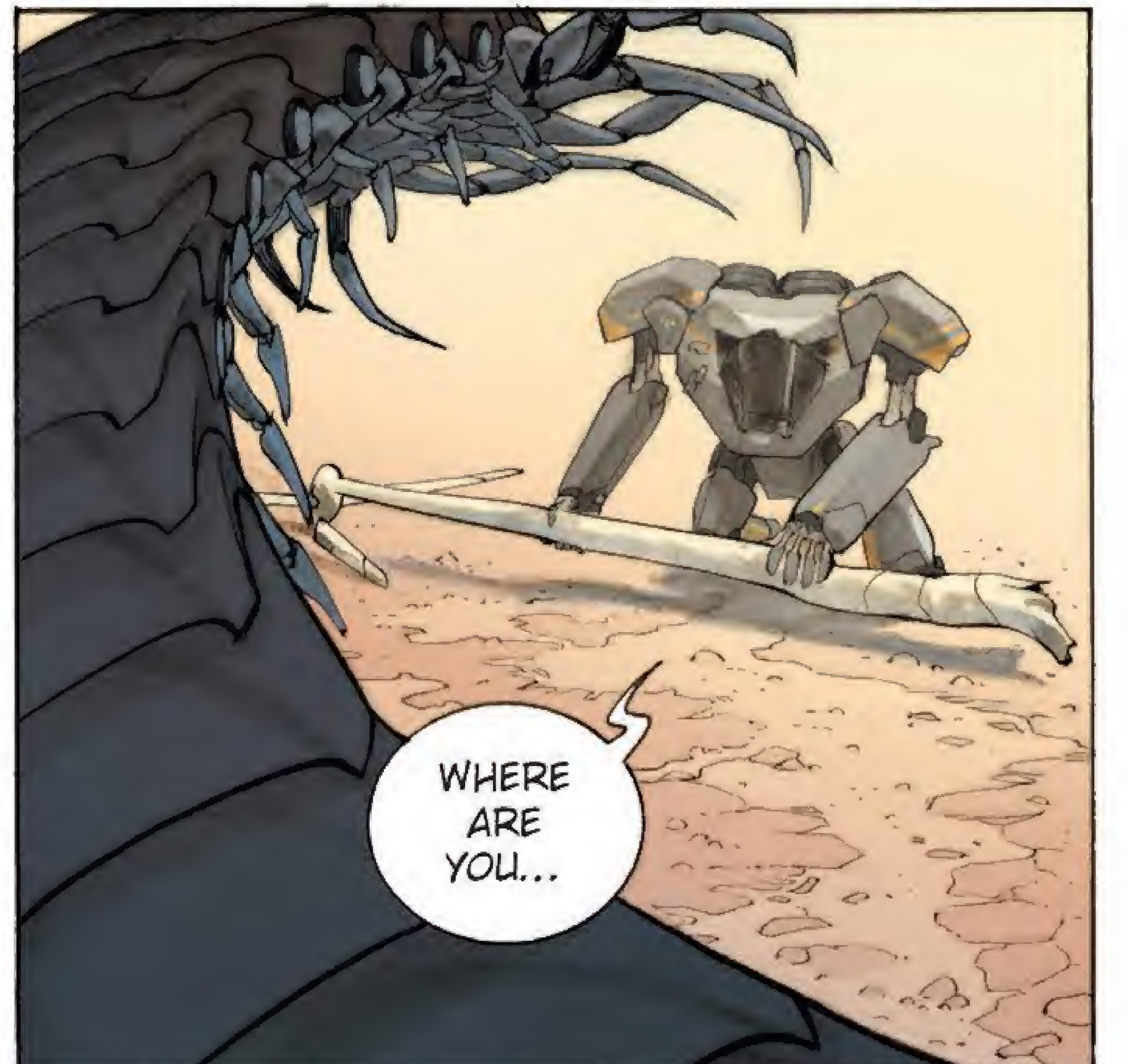
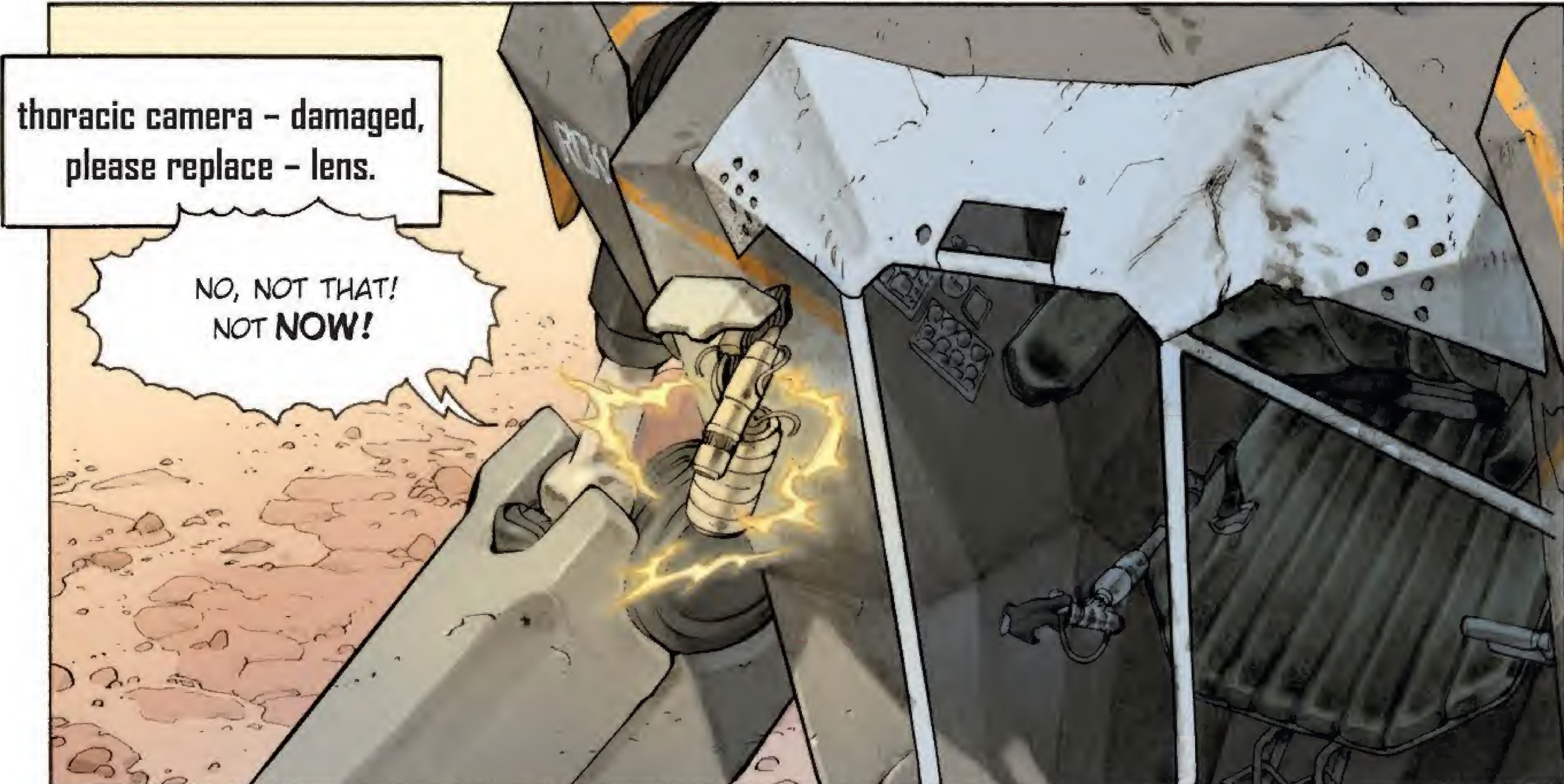
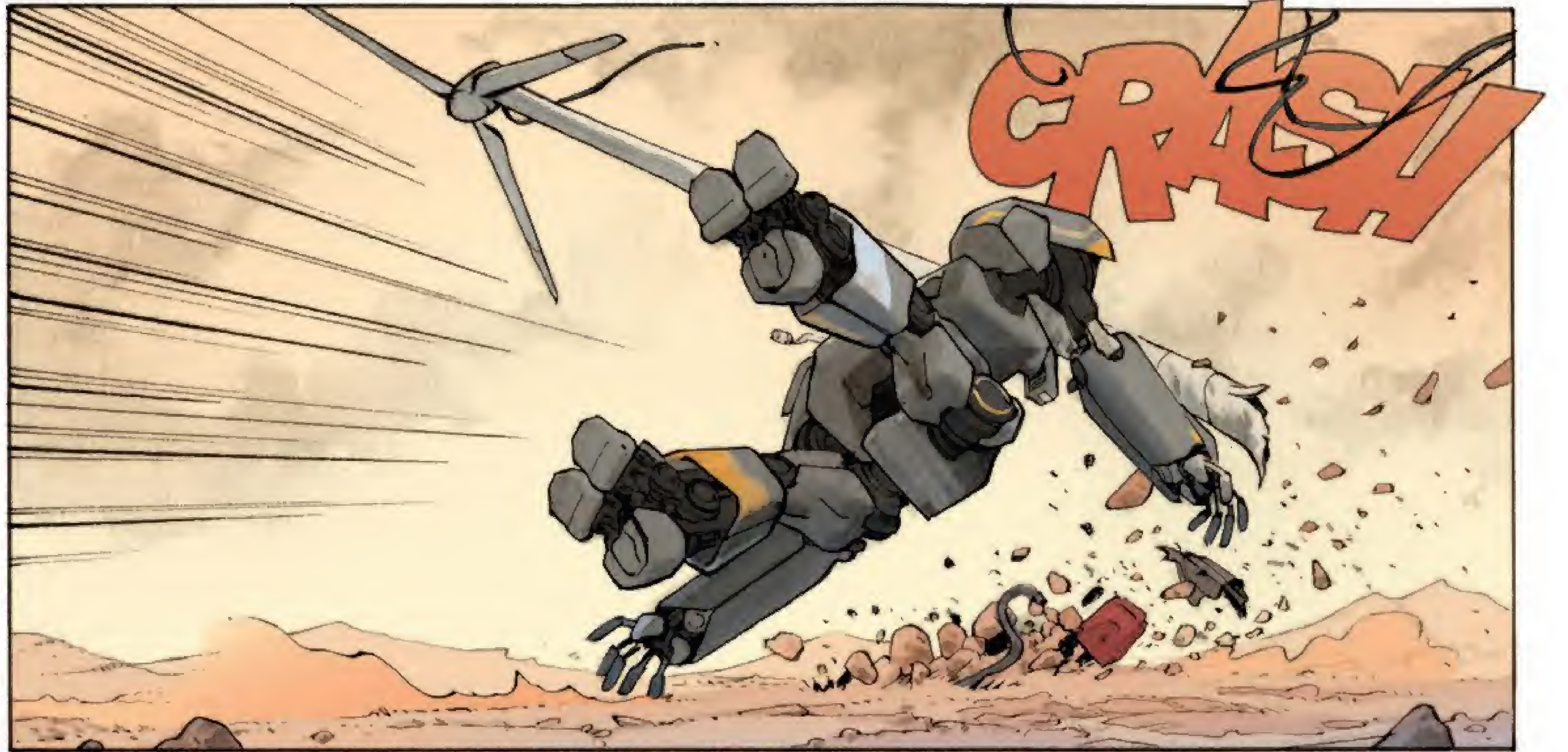
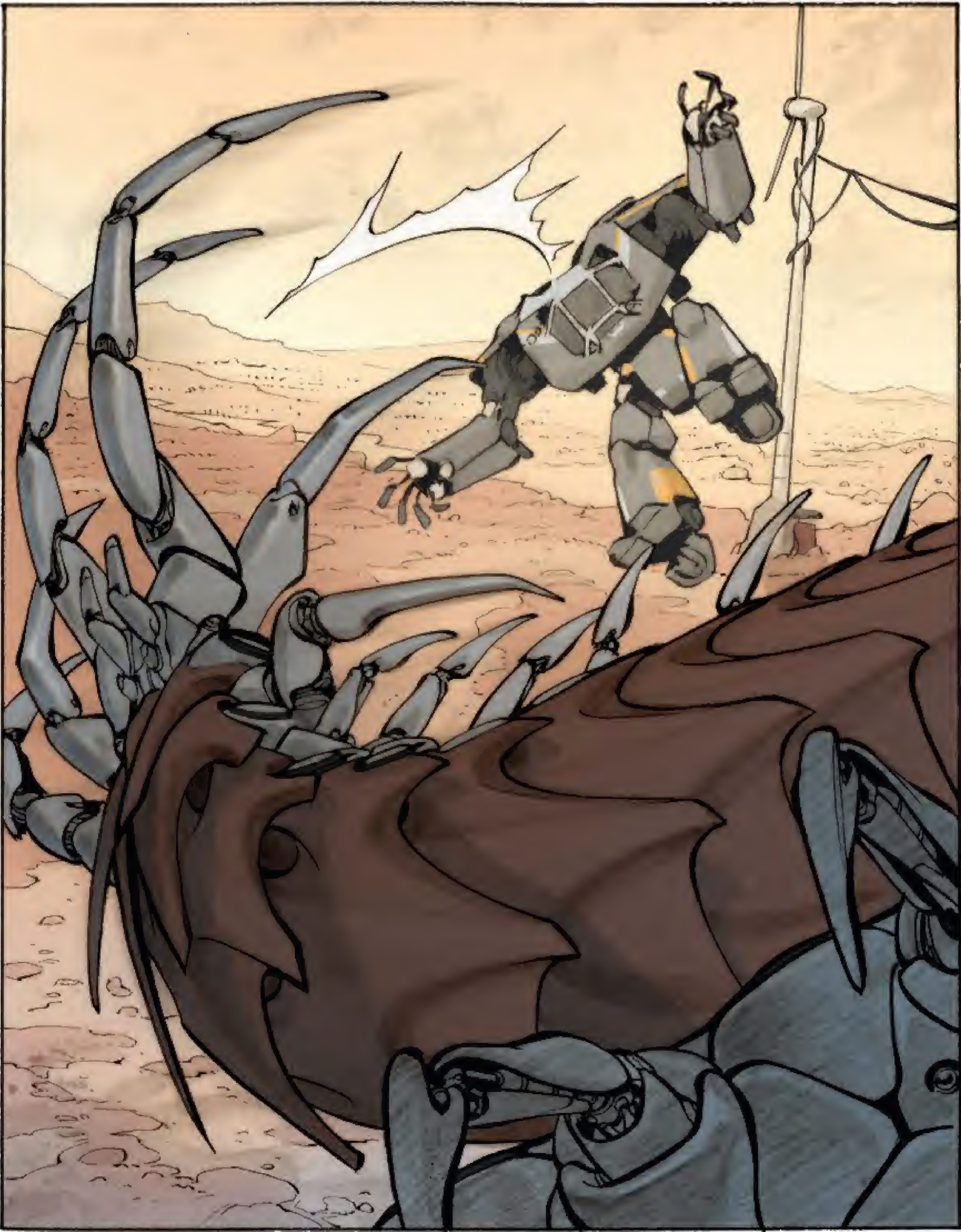
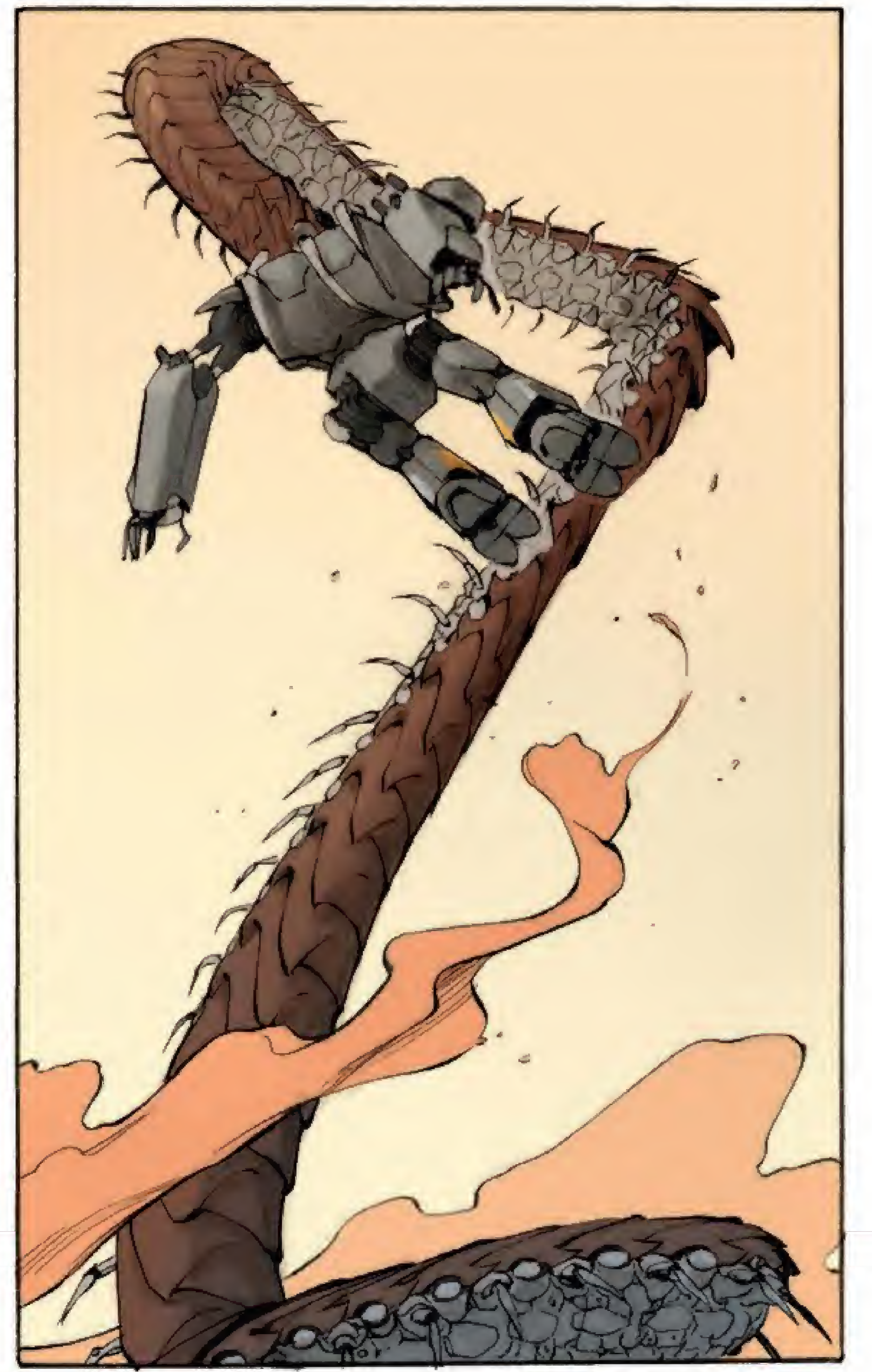
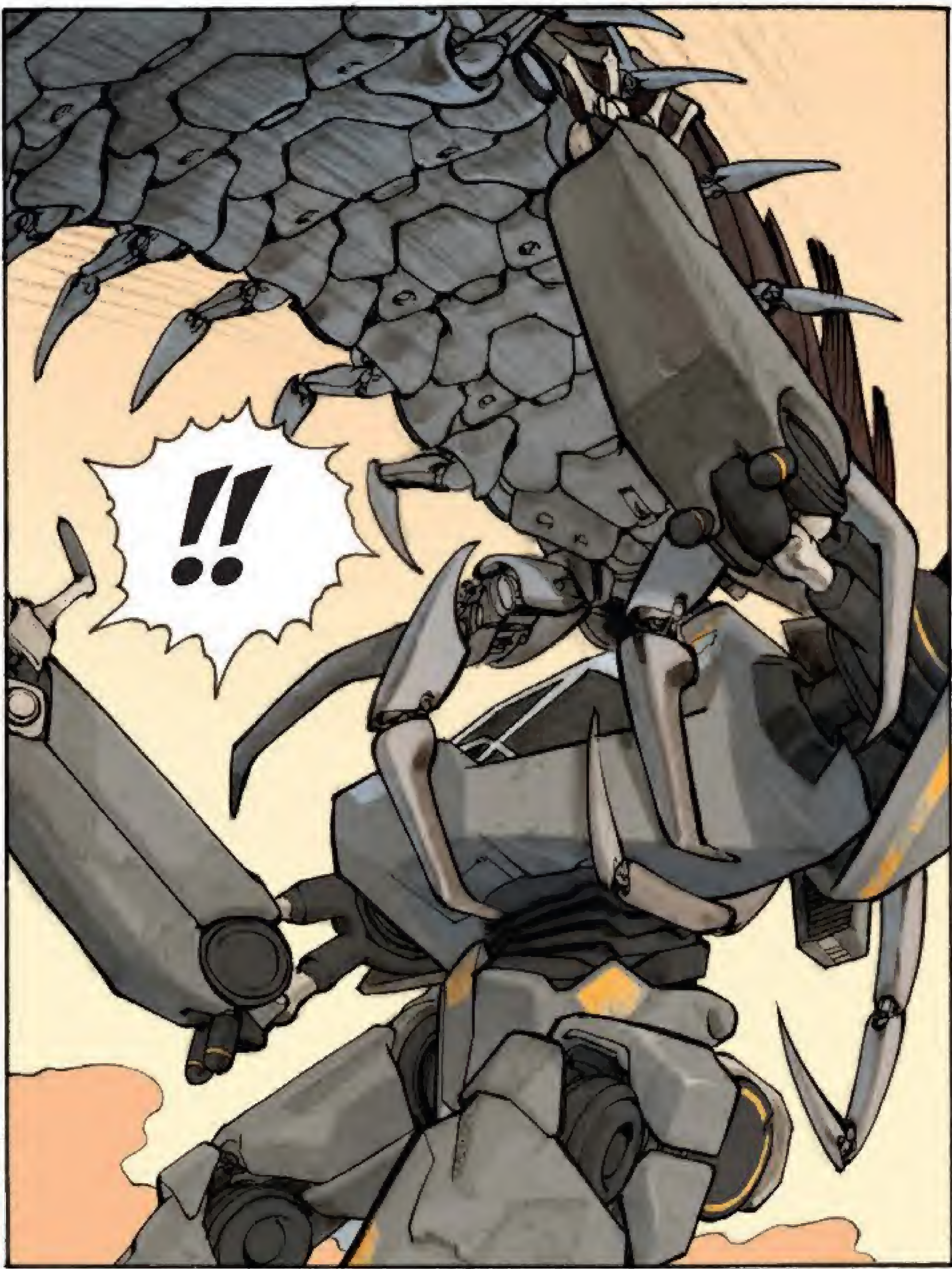


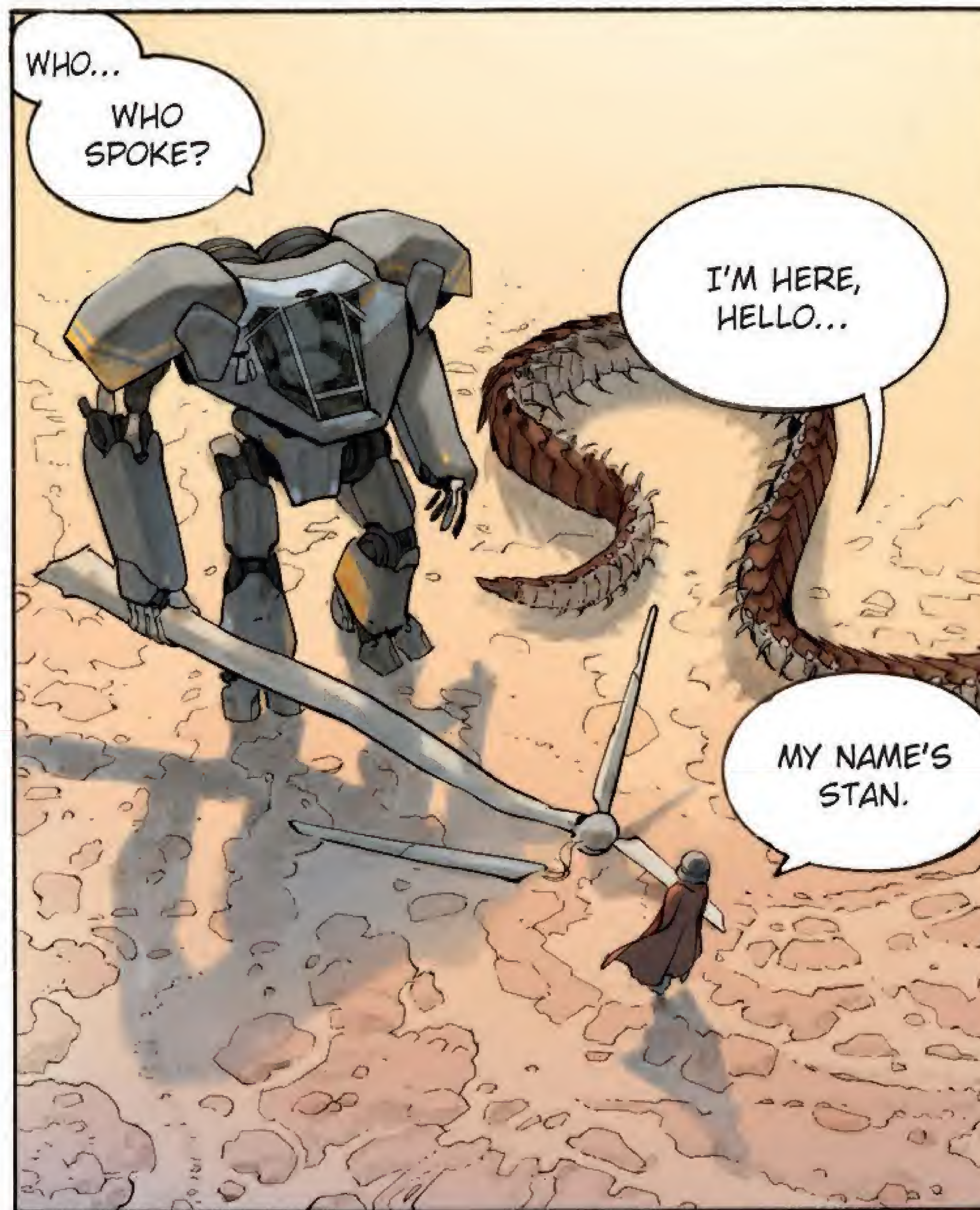
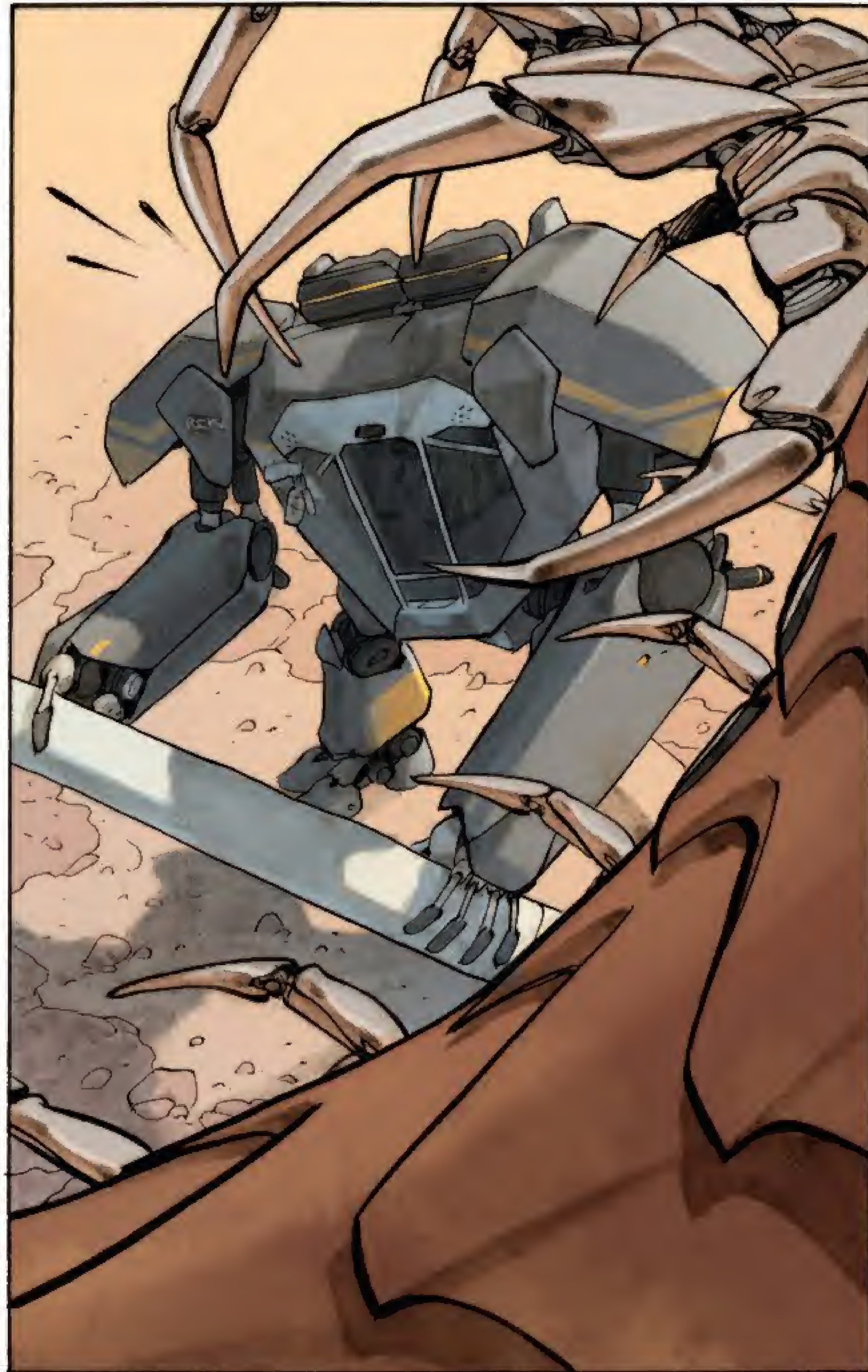
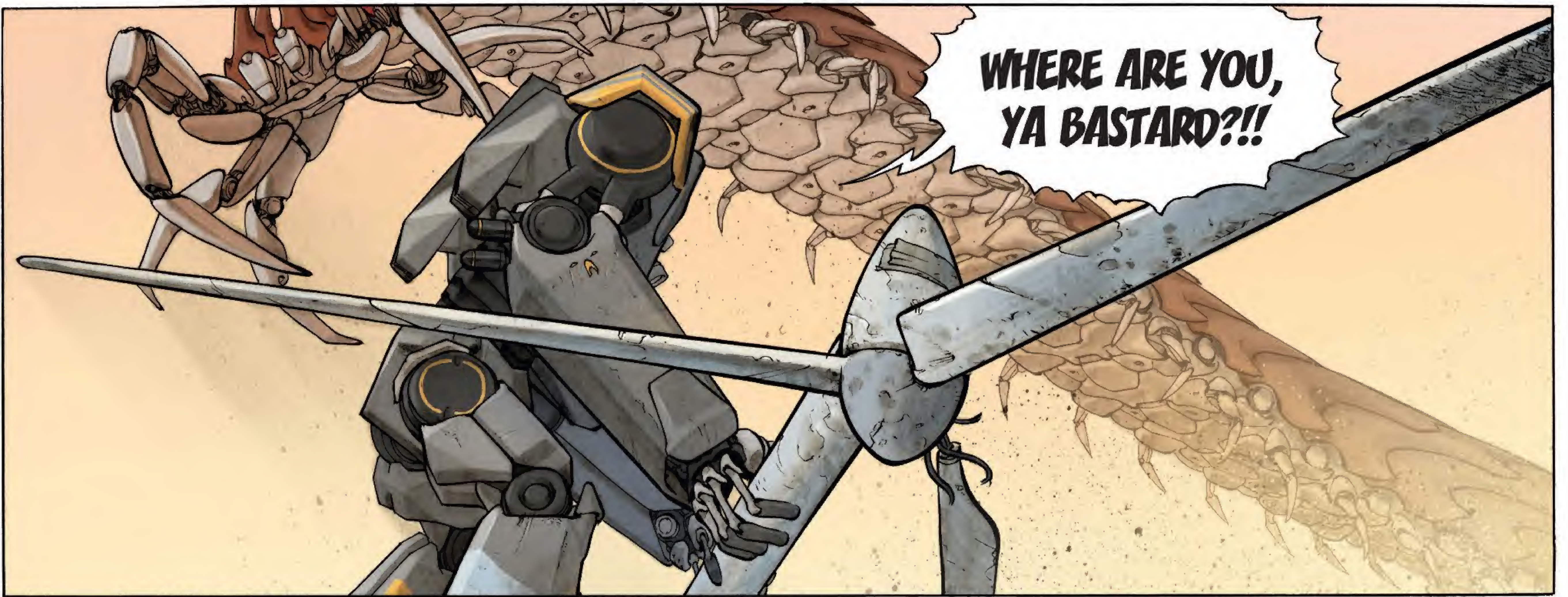






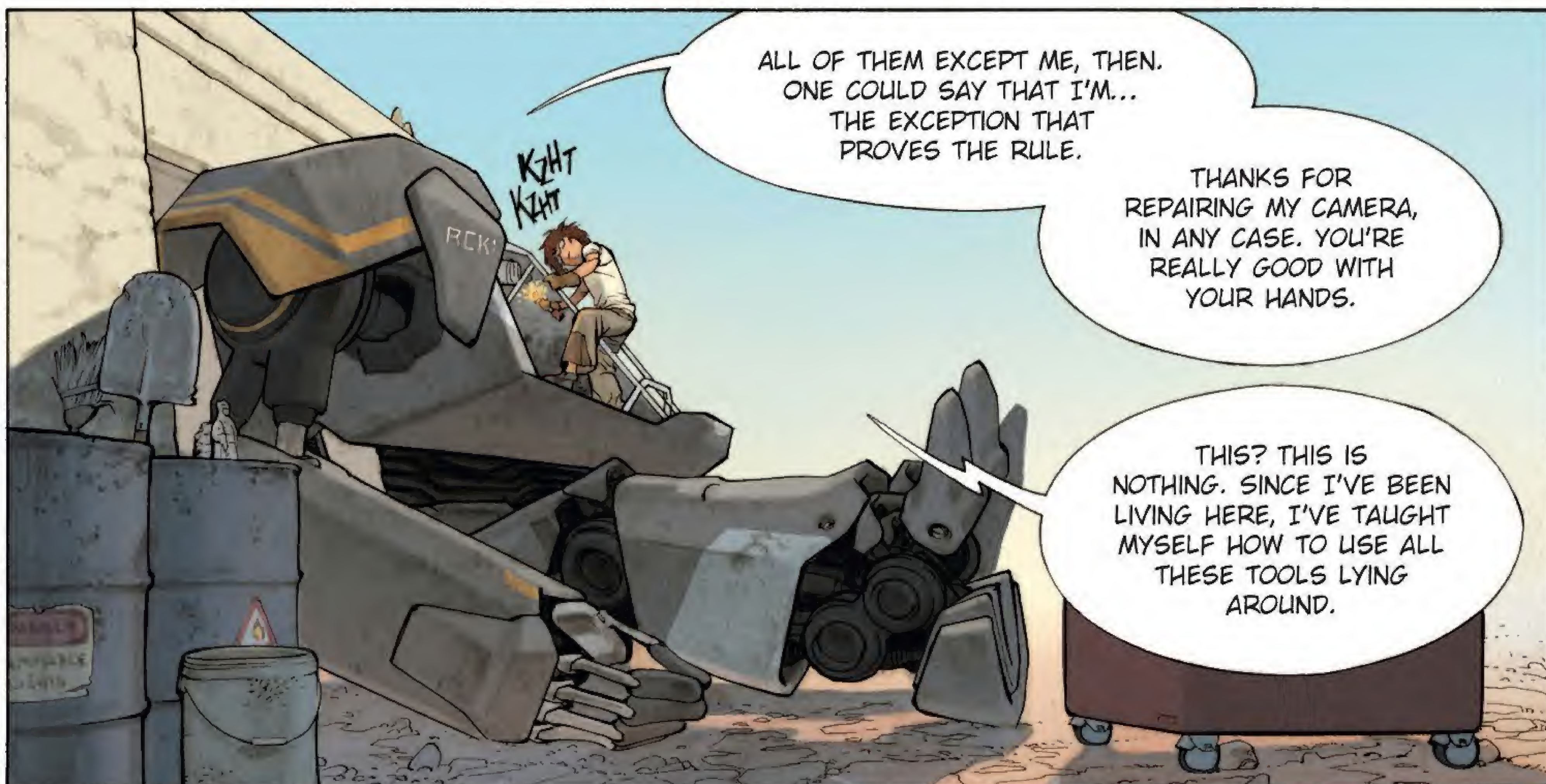








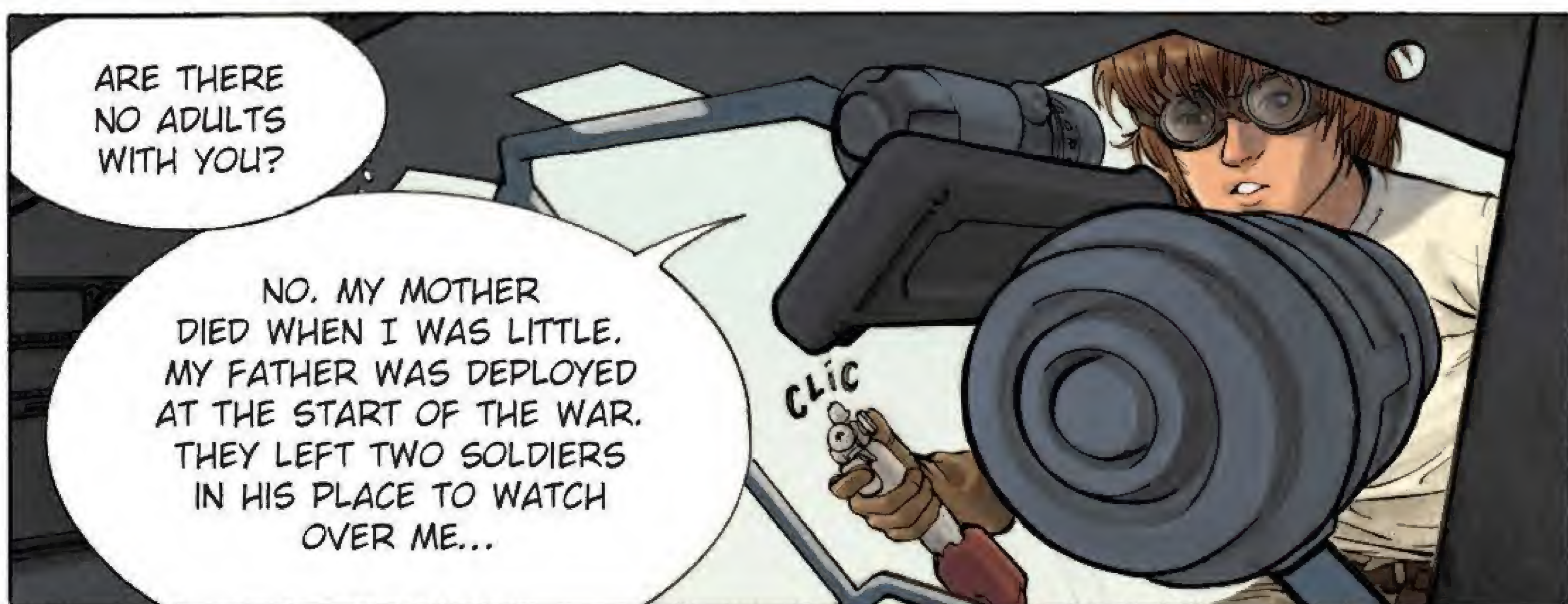
I THOUGHT THAT
ALL ROBOTS WANTED
TO KILL HUMANS...



ALL OF THEM EXCEPT ME, THEN.
ONE COULD SAY THAT I'M...
THE EXCEPTION THAT
PROVES THE RULE.

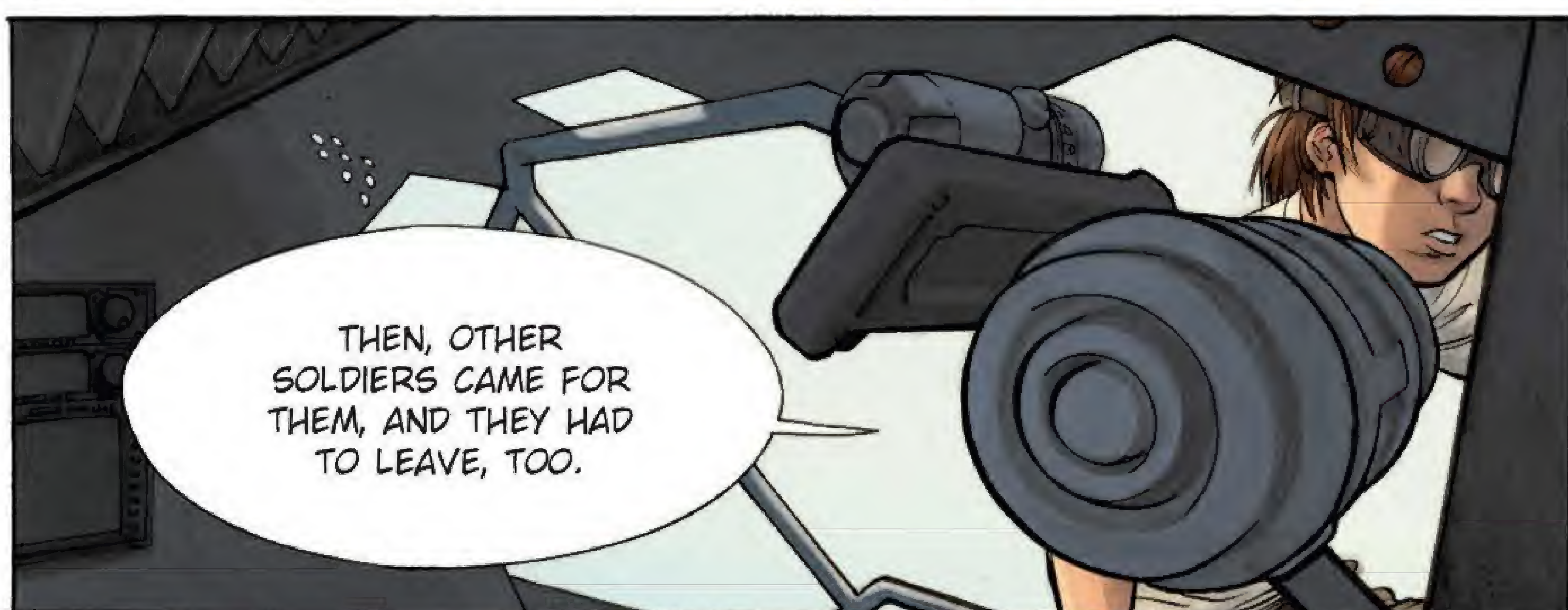
THANKS FOR
REPAIRING MY CAMERA,
IN ANY CASE. YOU'RE
REALLY GOOD WITH
YOUR HANDS.

THIS? THIS IS
NOTHING. SINCE I'VE BEEN
LIVING HERE, I'VE TAUGHT
MYSELF HOW TO USE ALL
THESE TOOLS LYING
AROUND.

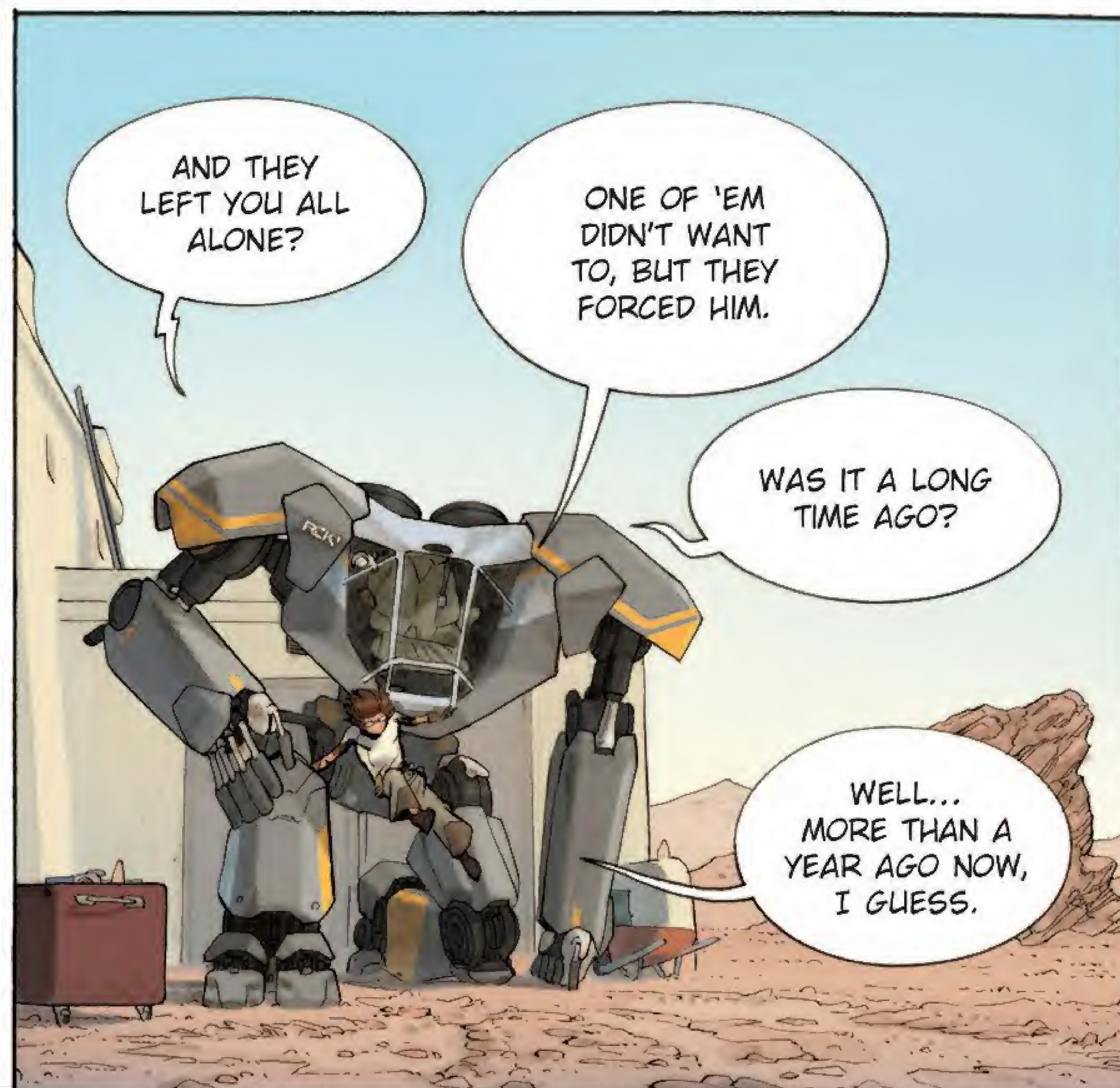


ARE THERE
NO ADULTS
WITH YOU?

NO. MY MOTHER
DIED WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
MY FATHER WAS DEPLOYED
AT THE START OF THE WAR.
THEY LEFT TWO SOLDIERS
IN HIS PLACE TO WATCH
OVER ME...



THEN, OTHER
SOLDIERS CAME FOR
THEM, AND THEY HAD
TO LEAVE, TOO.



AND THEY
LEFT YOU ALL
ALONE?

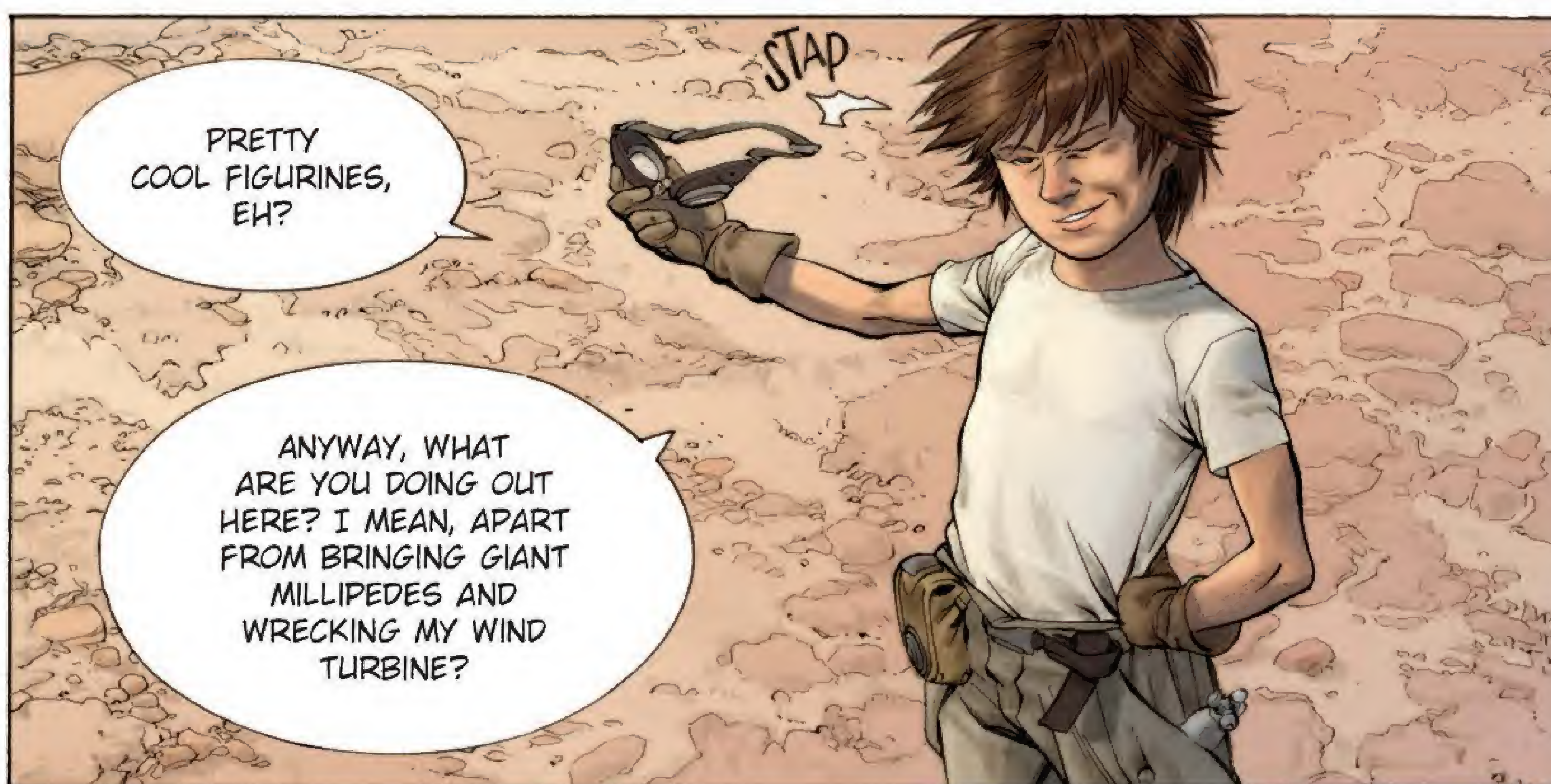
ONE OF 'EM
DIDN'T WANT
TO, BUT THEY
FORCED HIM.

WAS IT A LONG
TIME AGO?

WELL...
MORE THAN A
YEAR AGO NOW,
I GUESS.

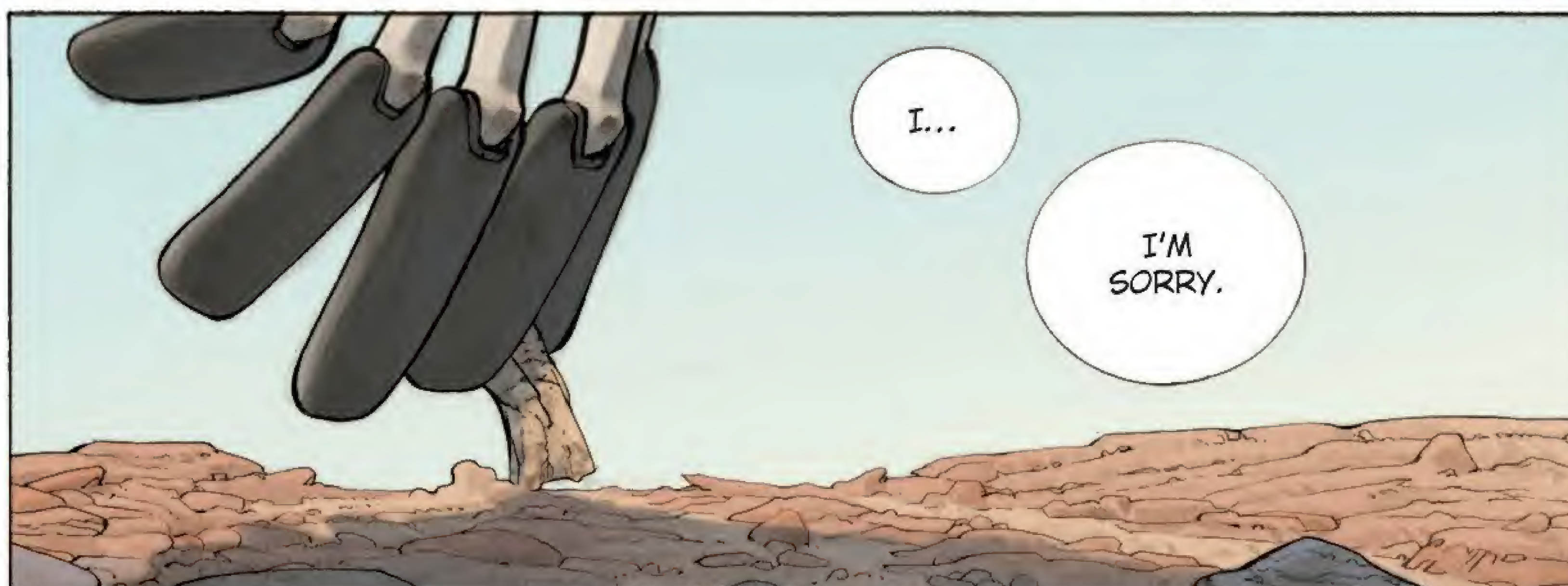


MORE THAN
A YEAR? MY GOD,
THAT'S CRAZY...



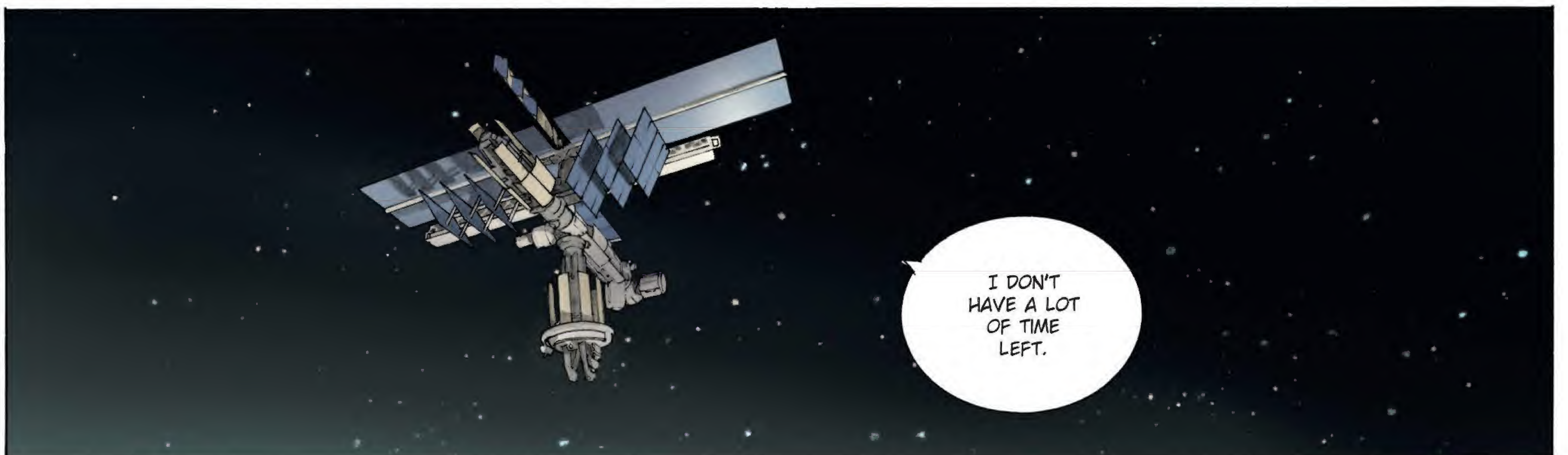
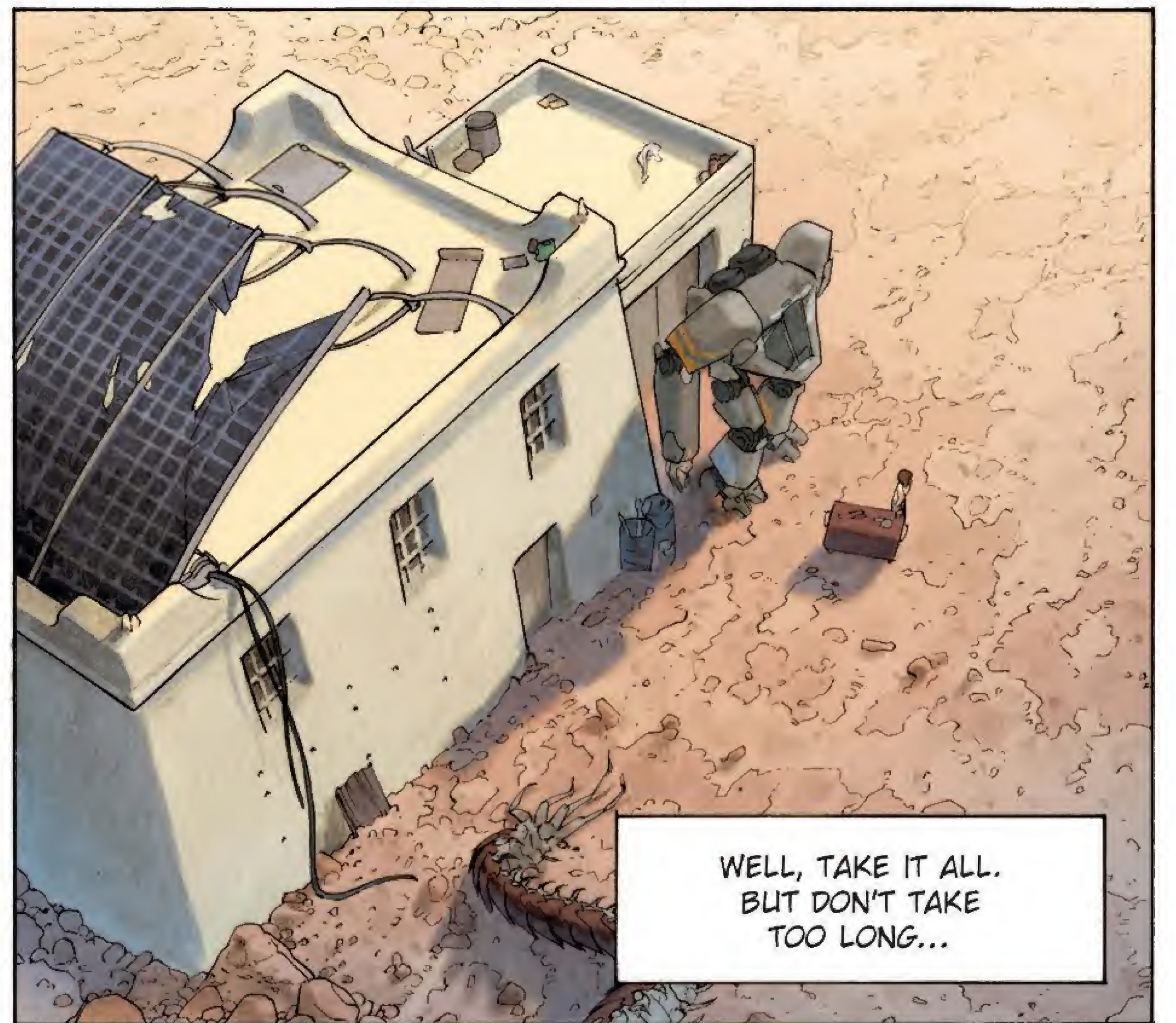
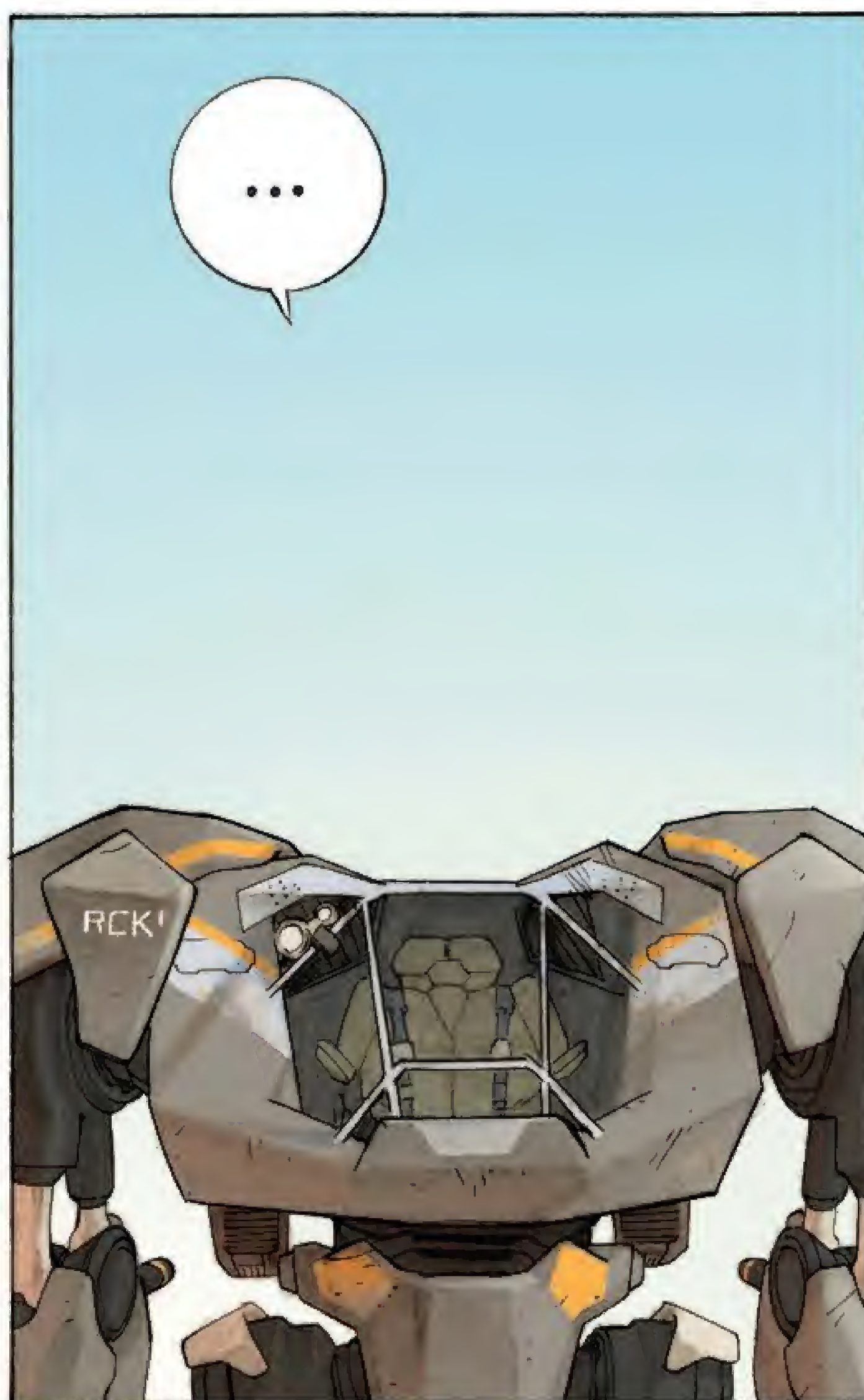
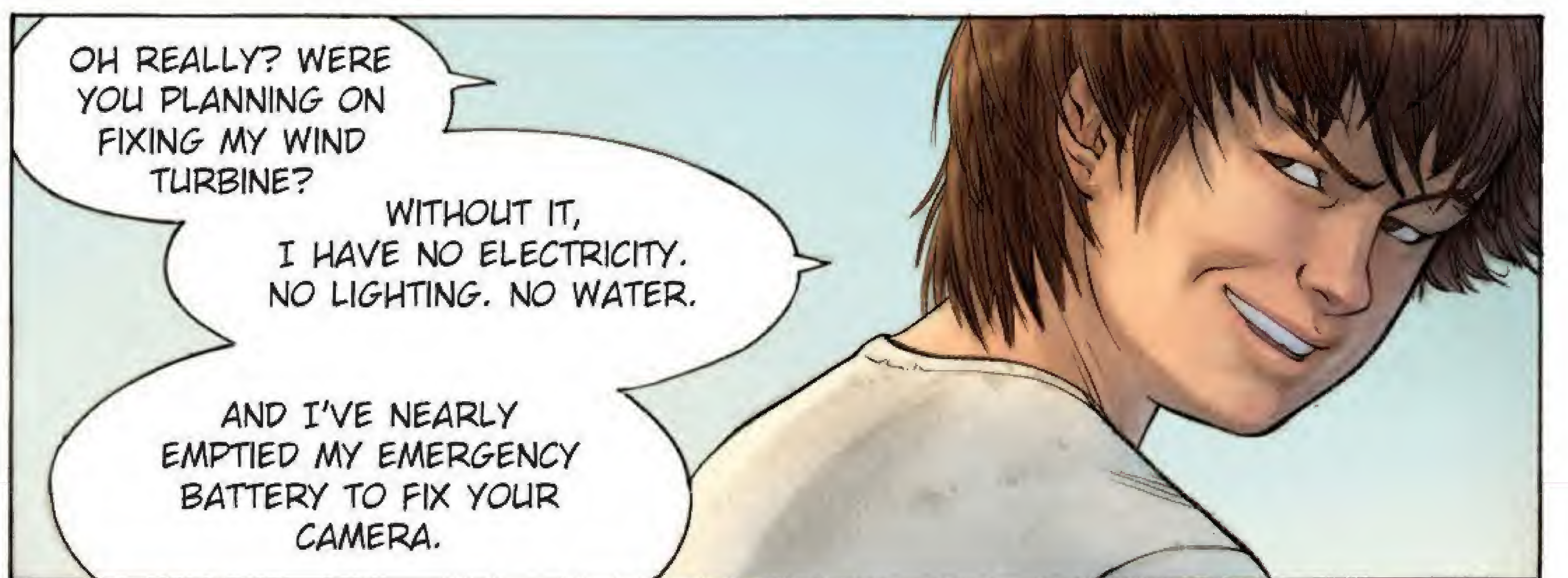
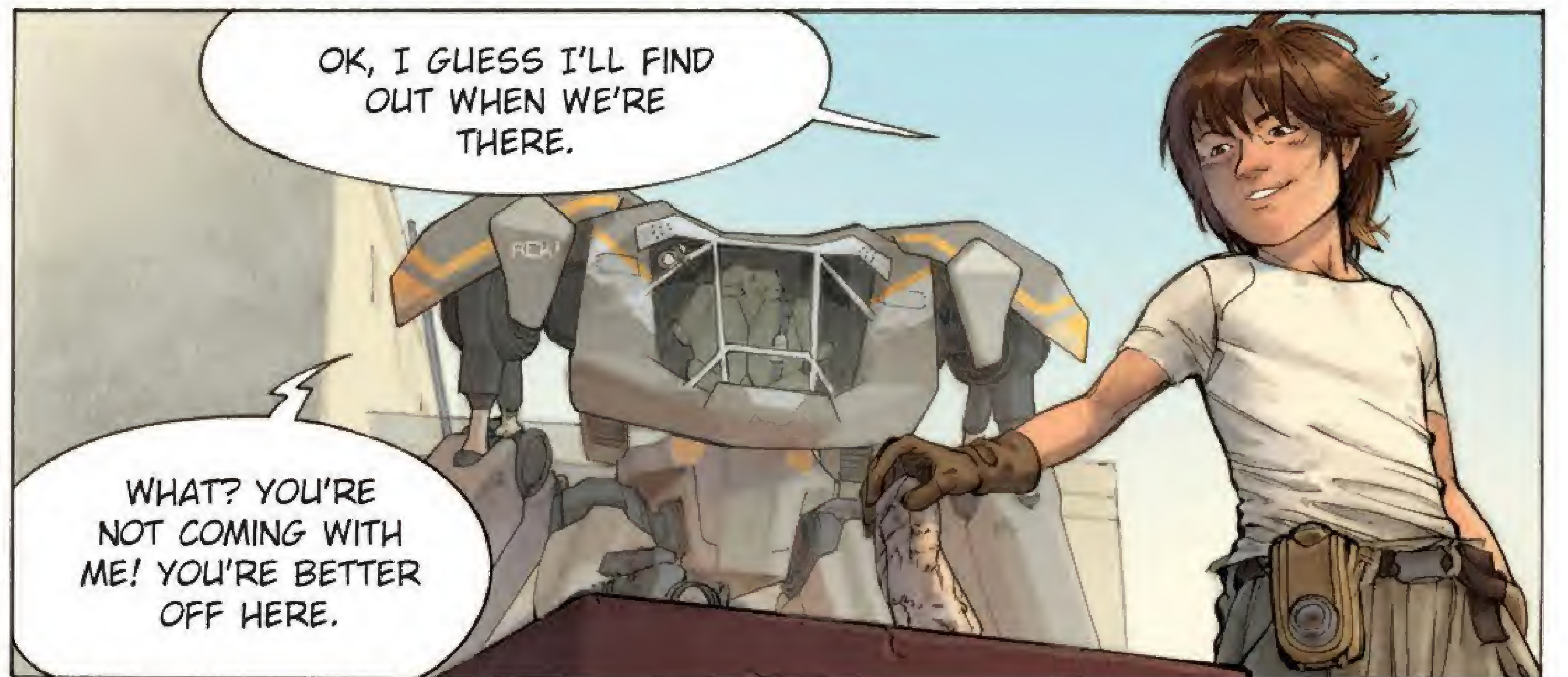
PRETTY
COOL FIGURINES,
EH?

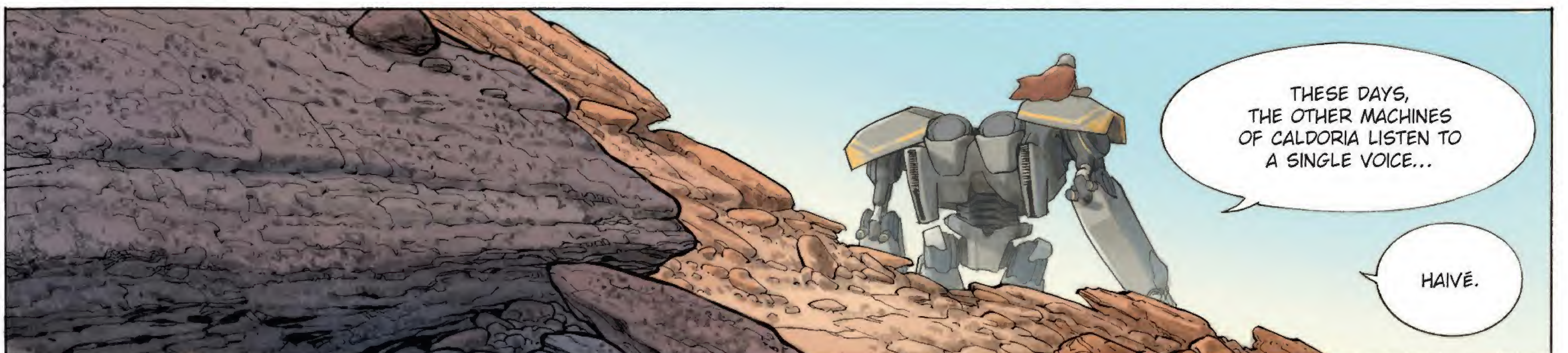
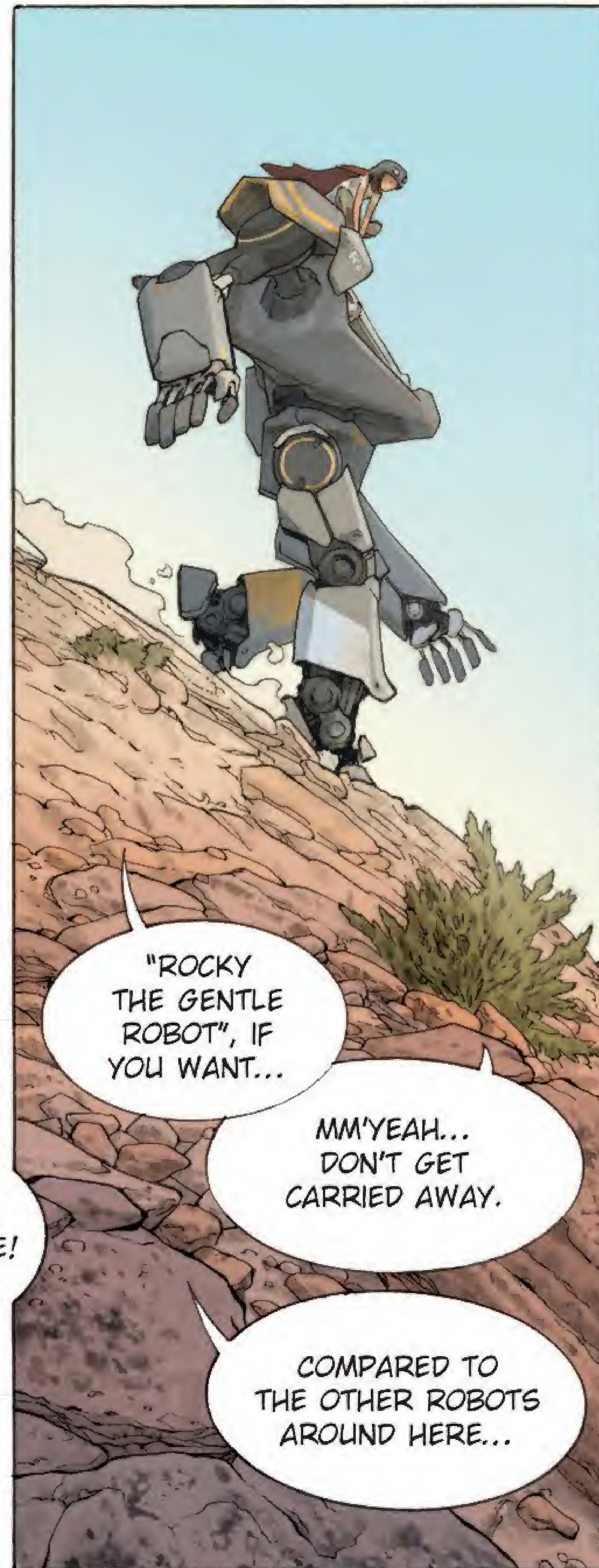
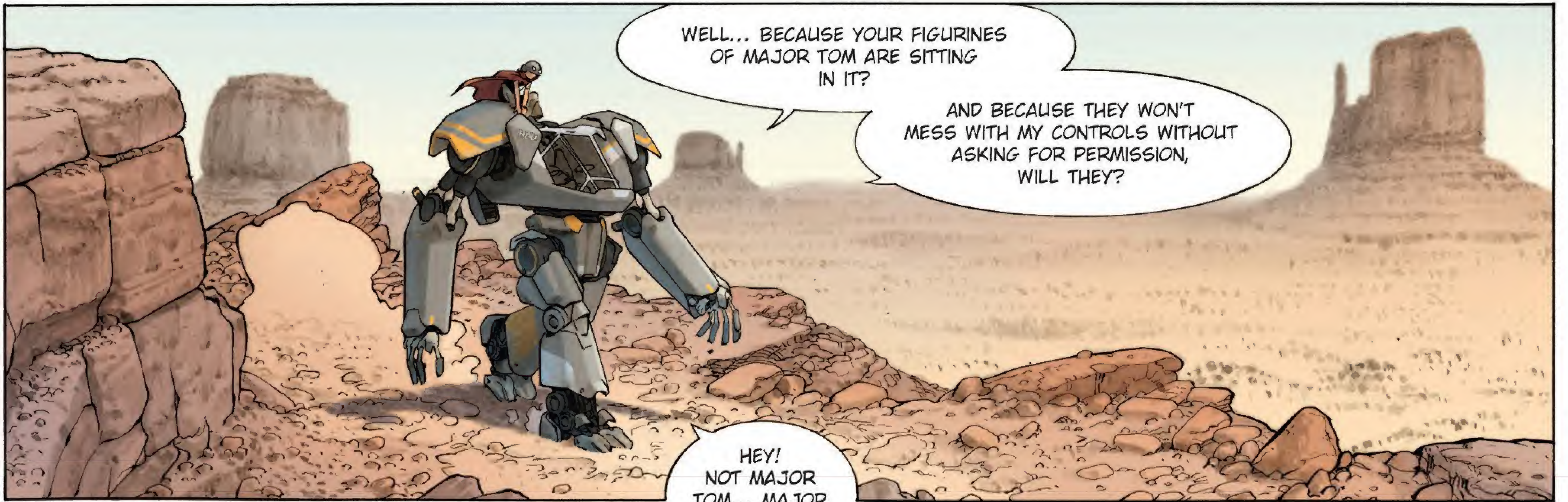
ANYWAY, WHAT
ARE YOU DOING OUT
HERE? I MEAN, APART
FROM BRINGING GIANT
MILLIPEDES AND
WRECKING MY WIND
TURBINE?

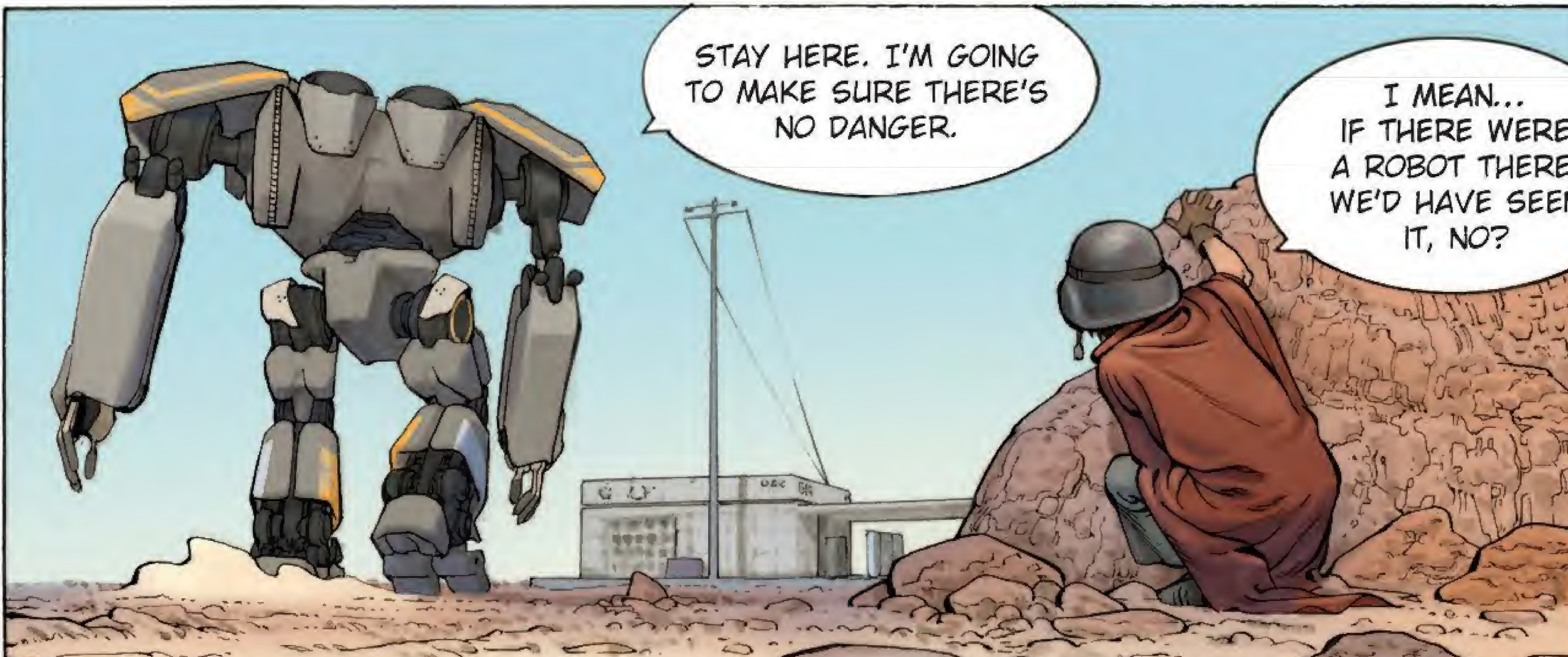
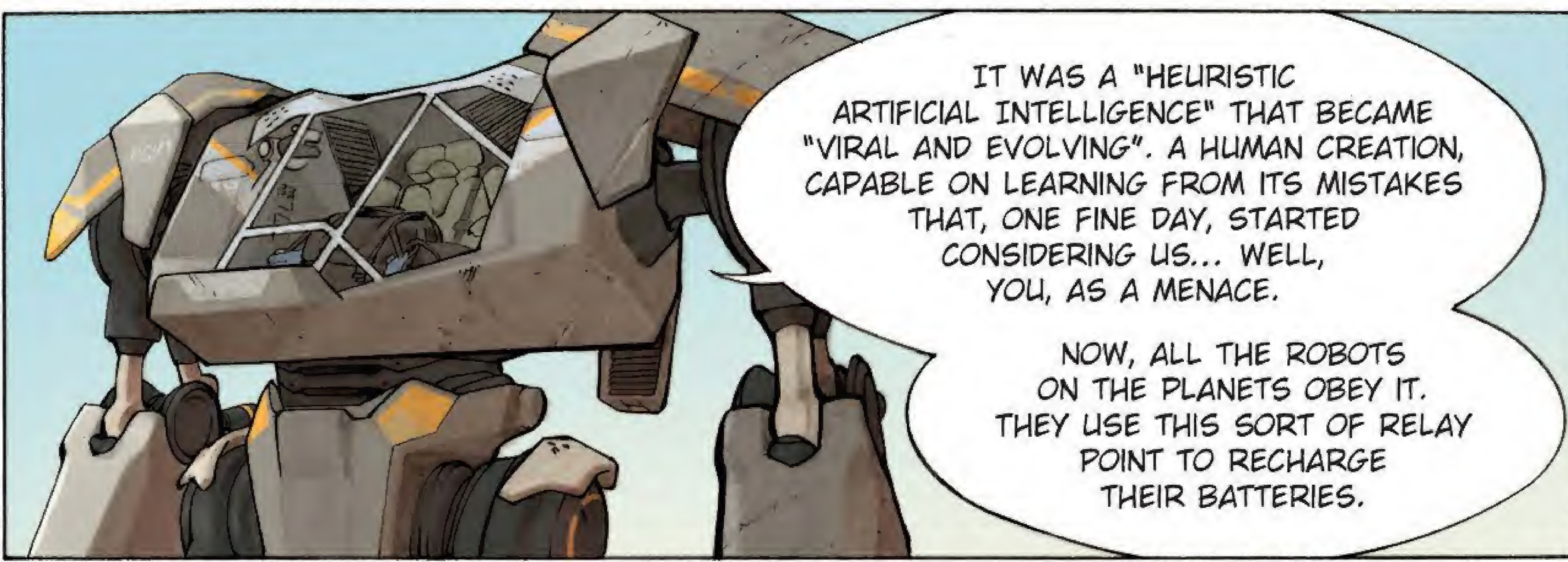
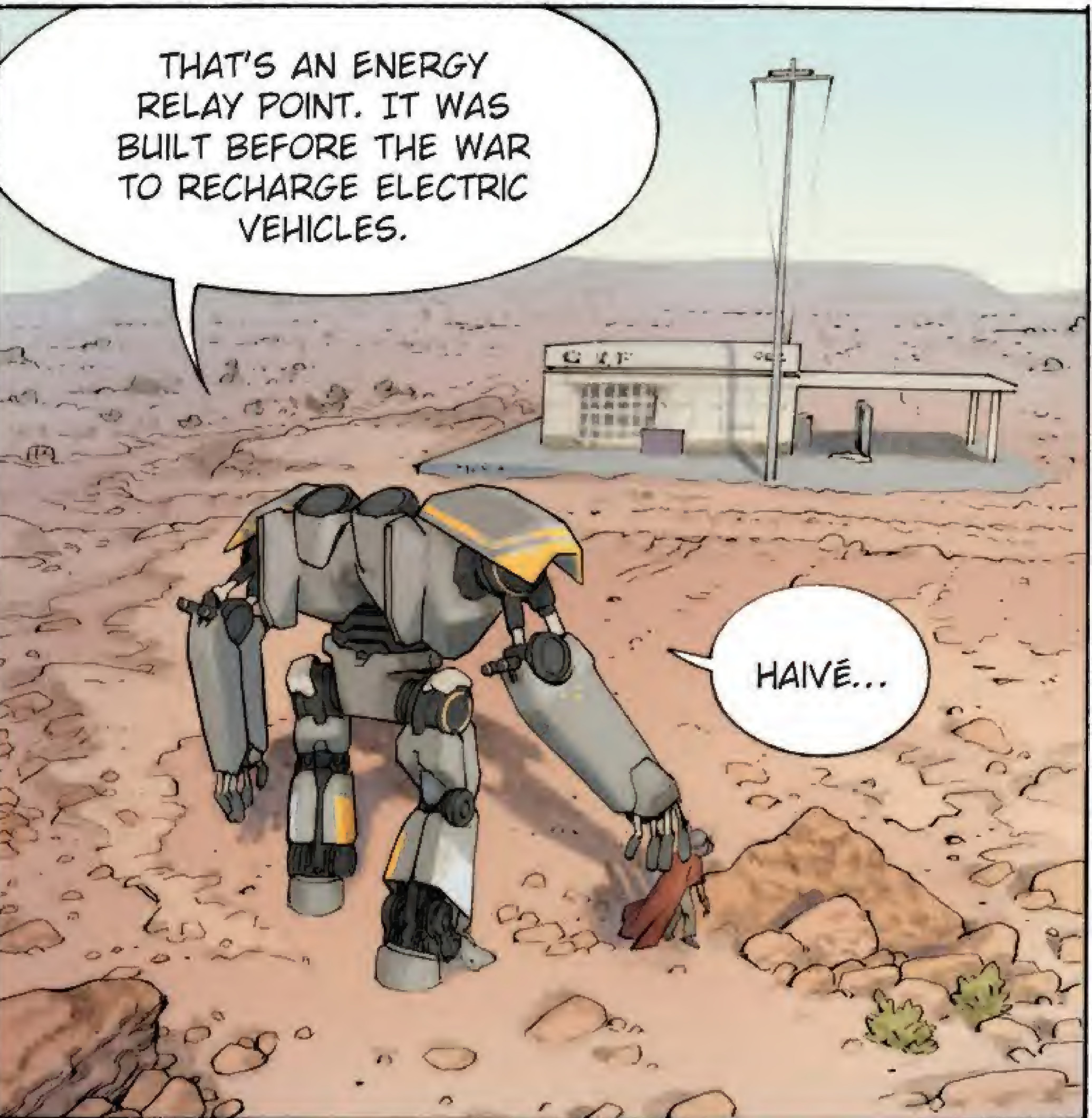
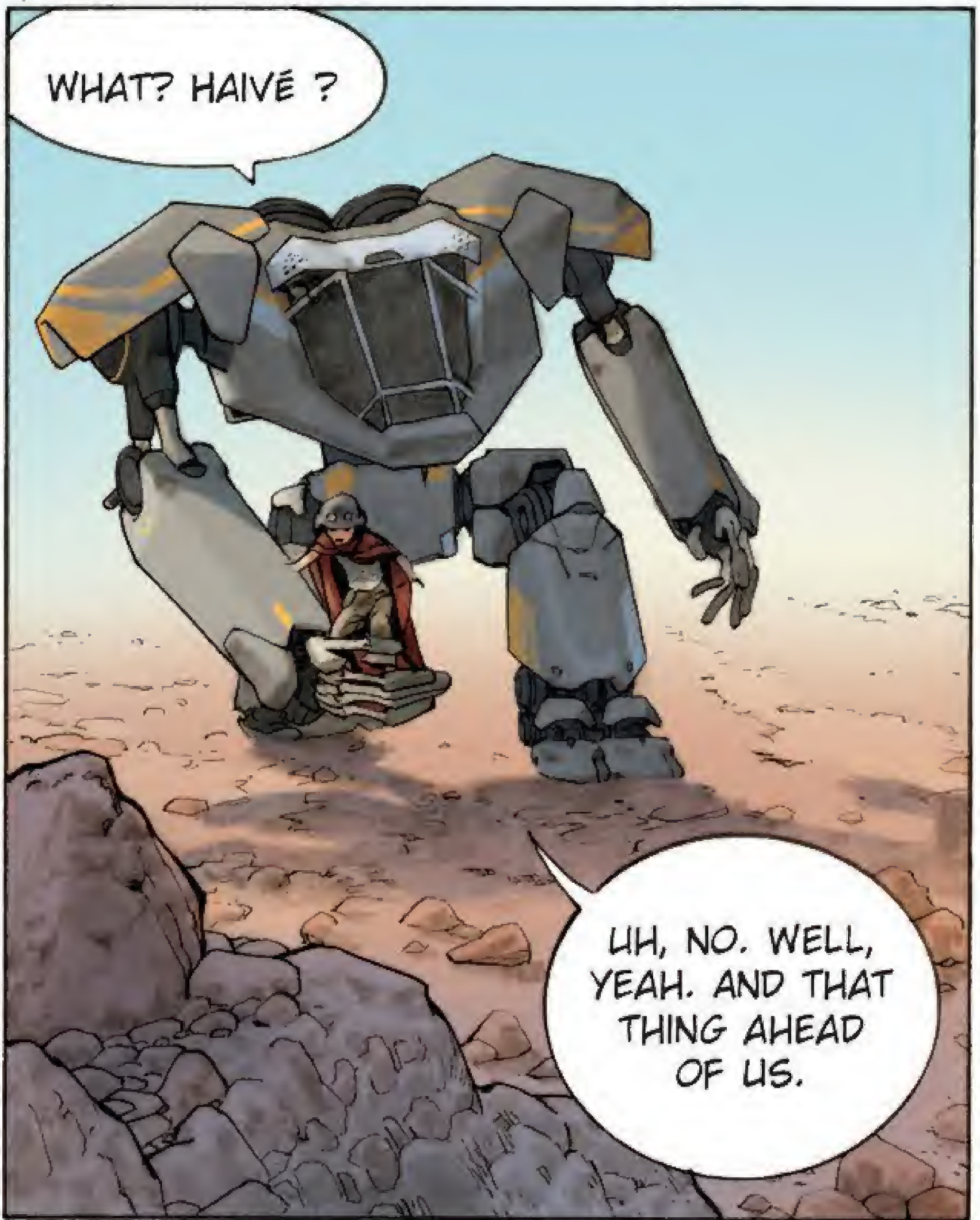
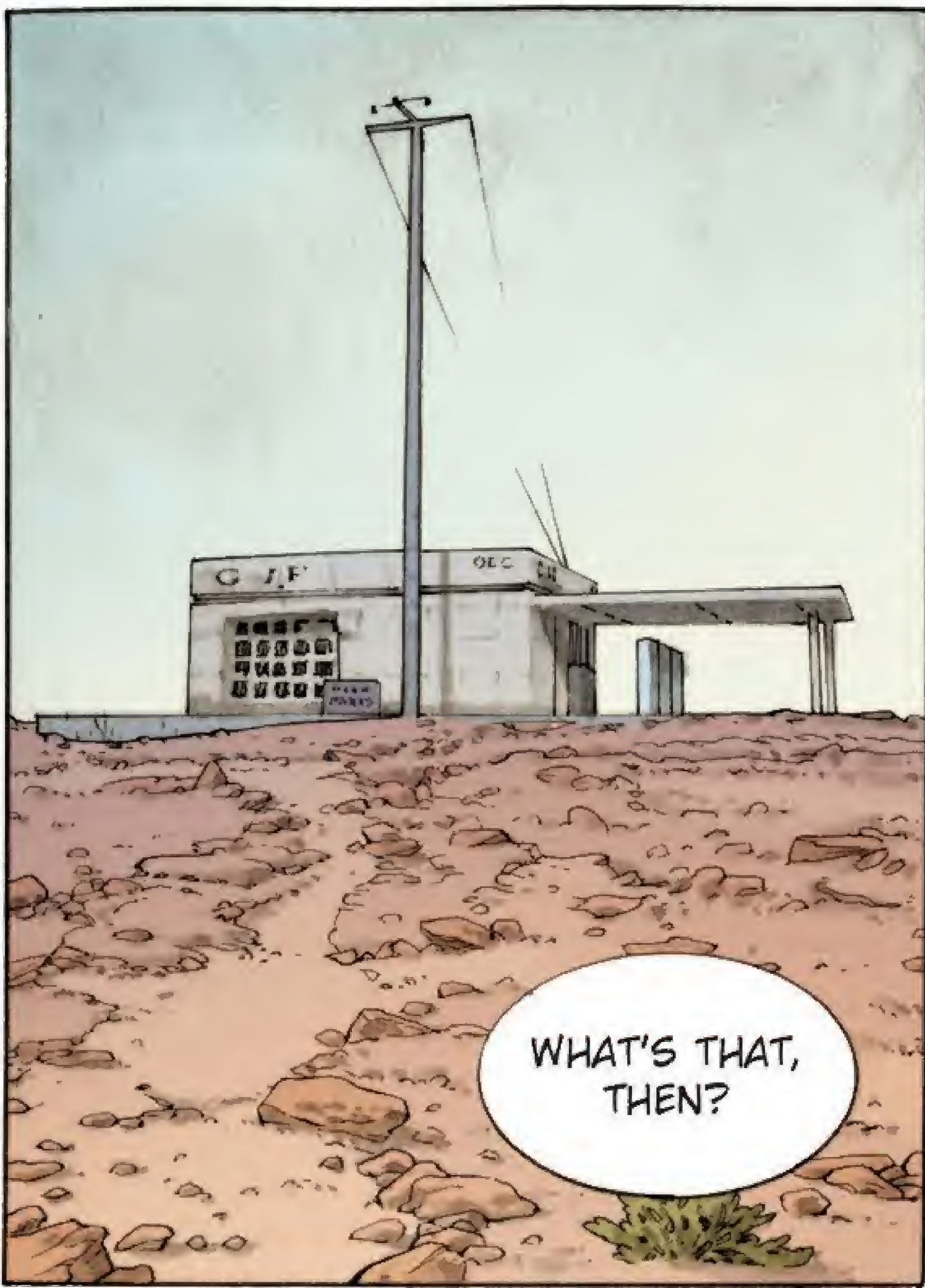


I...

I'M
SORRY.







IT'S PRETTY COOL TO FIND A BIKE JUST LYING OUT IN THE OPEN HERE.



COOL.

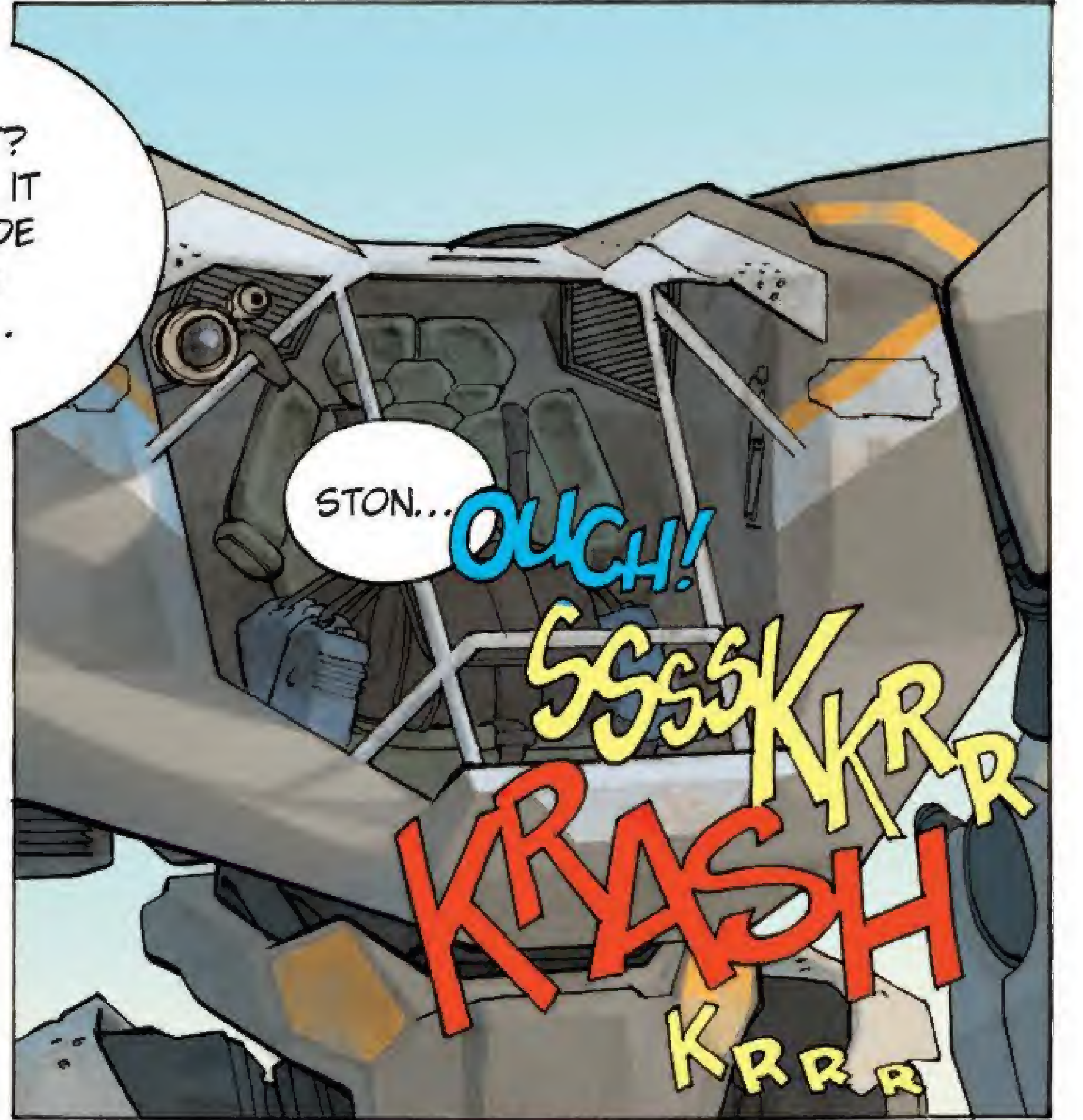
YEAH.



C'MON, WE GOTTA GO NOW. LEAVE THE BIKE, I DON'T INTEND TO STICK TO THE ROAD.

WNNNNN

SO WHAT? I'M SURE IT COULD RIDE OVER A COUPLE...



STON...

OUCH!

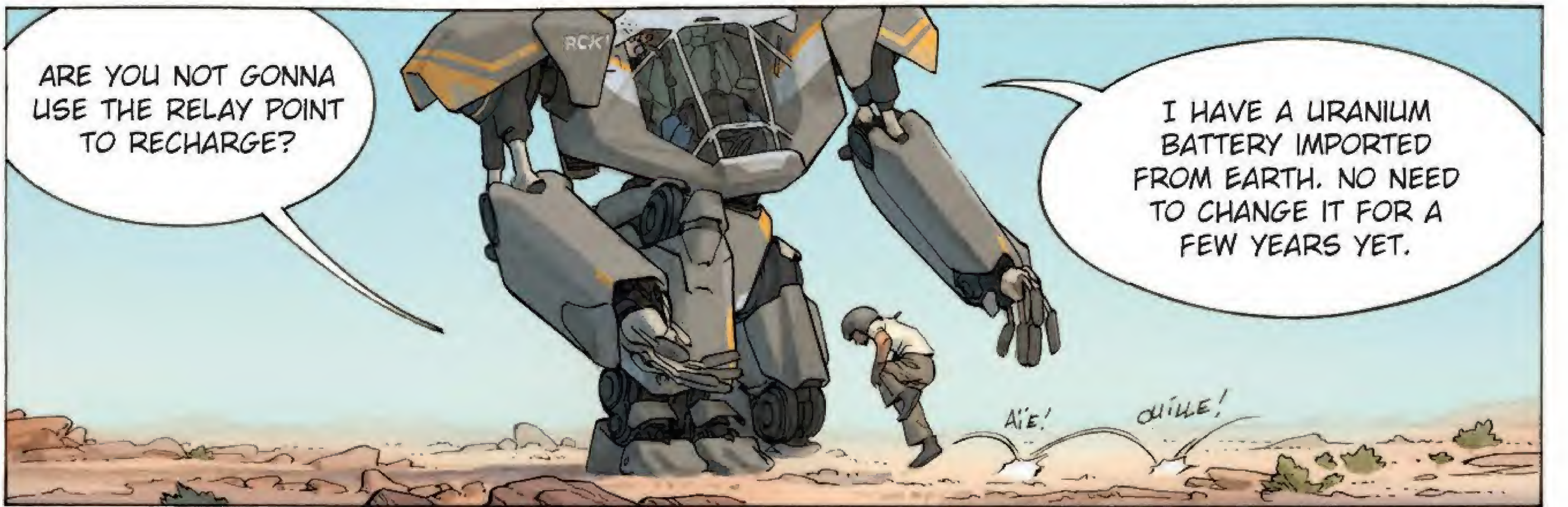
SSSSKRR

KRASH

KRRR

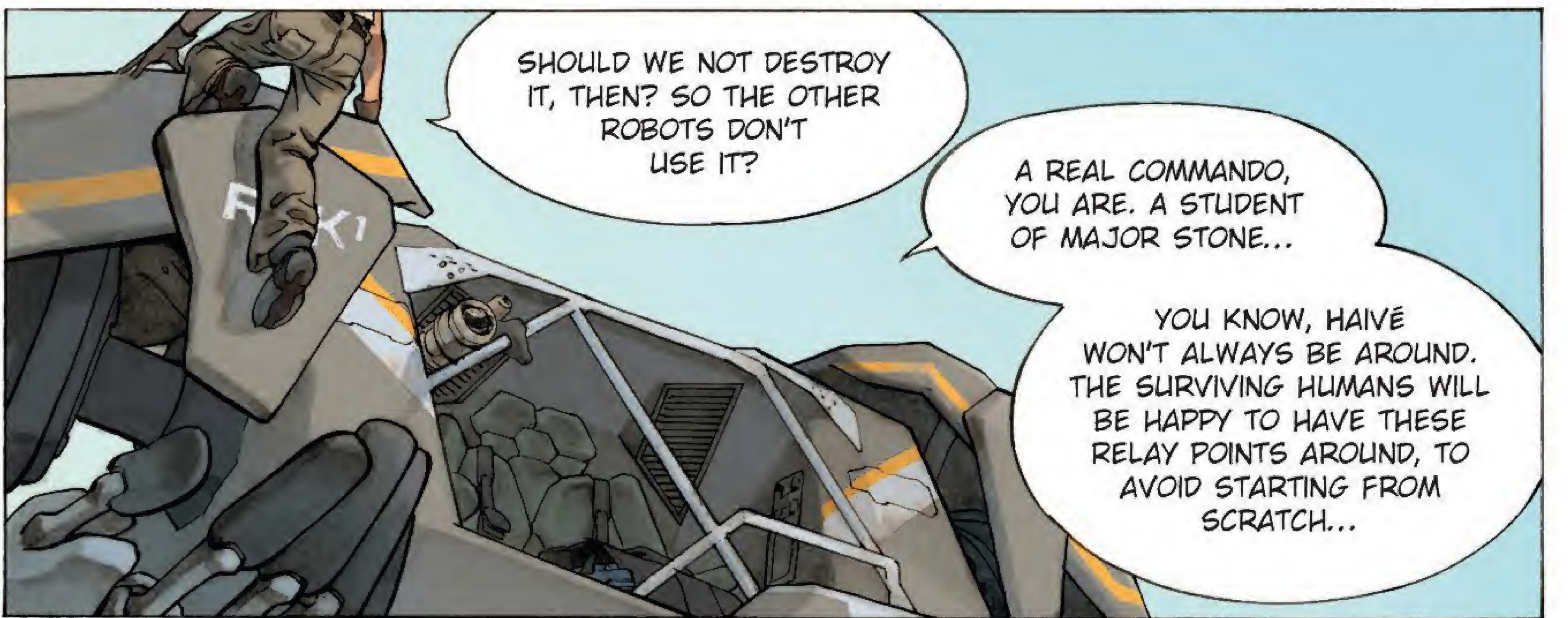


ALL GOOD! NOTHING BROKEN.



ARE YOU NOT GONNA USE THE RELAY POINT TO RECHARGE?

I HAVE A URANIUM BATTERY IMPORTED FROM EARTH. NO NEED TO CHANGE IT FOR A FEW YEARS YET.



SHOULD WE NOT DESTROY IT, THEN? SO THE OTHER ROBOTS DON'T USE IT?

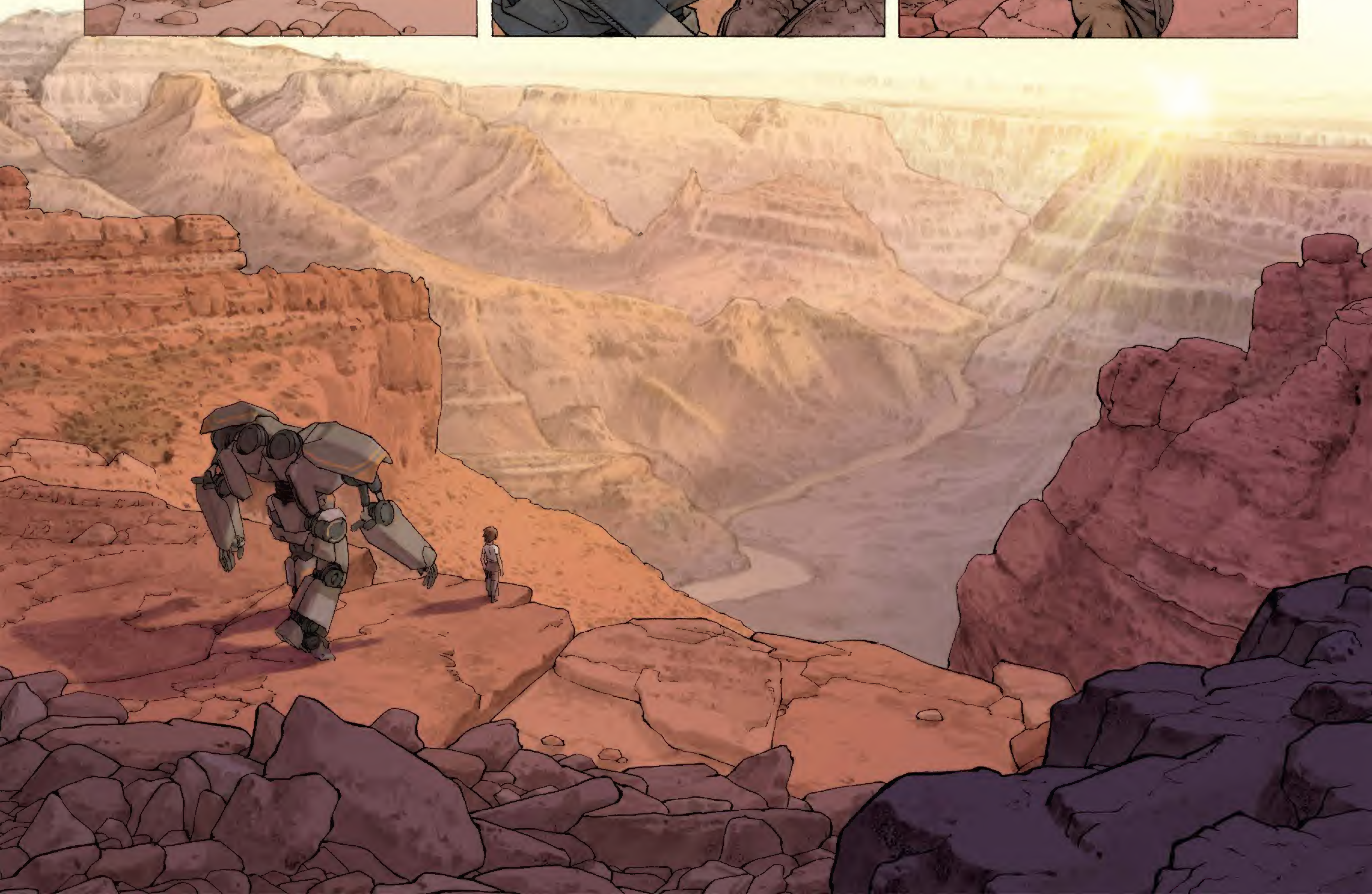
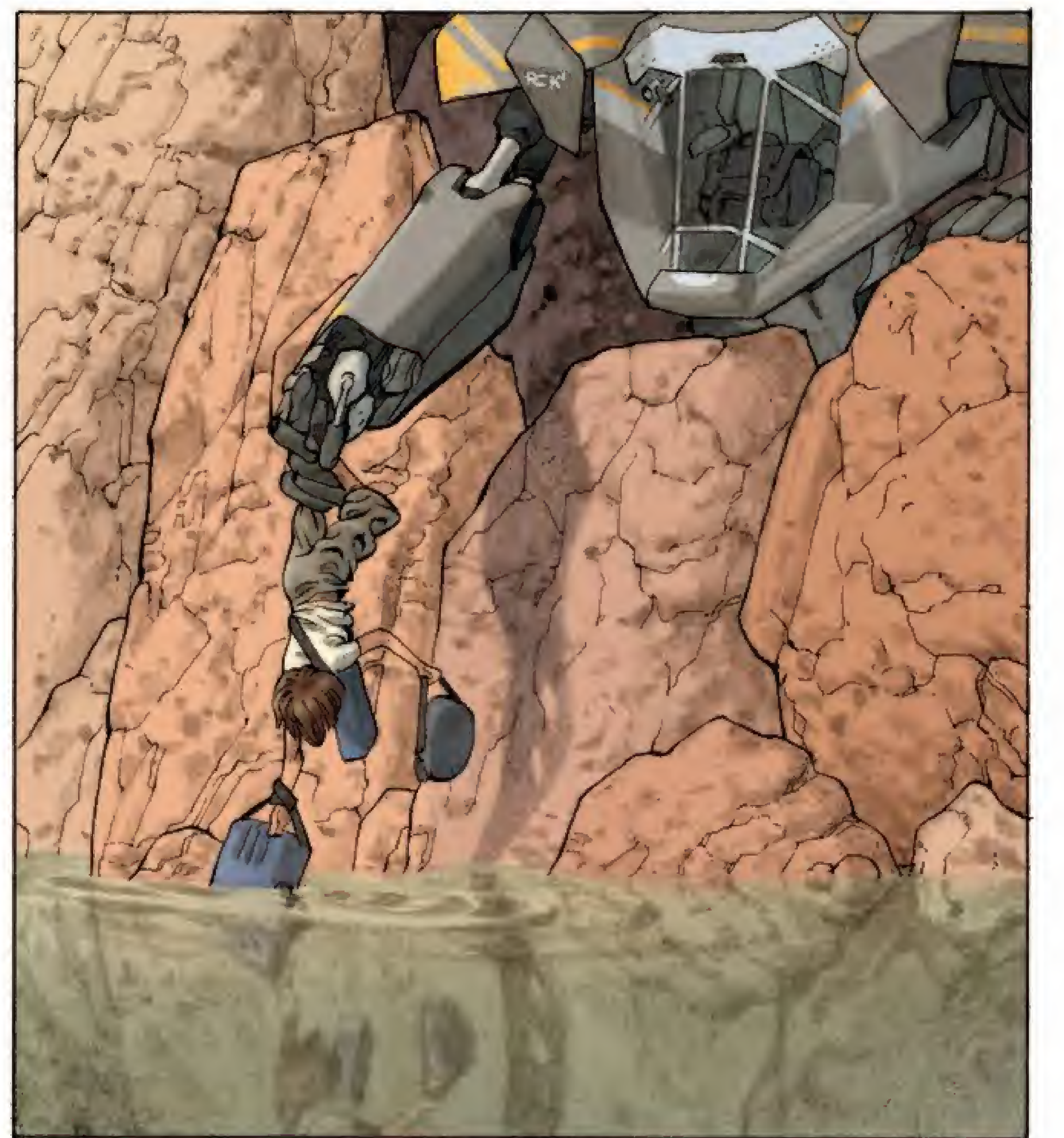
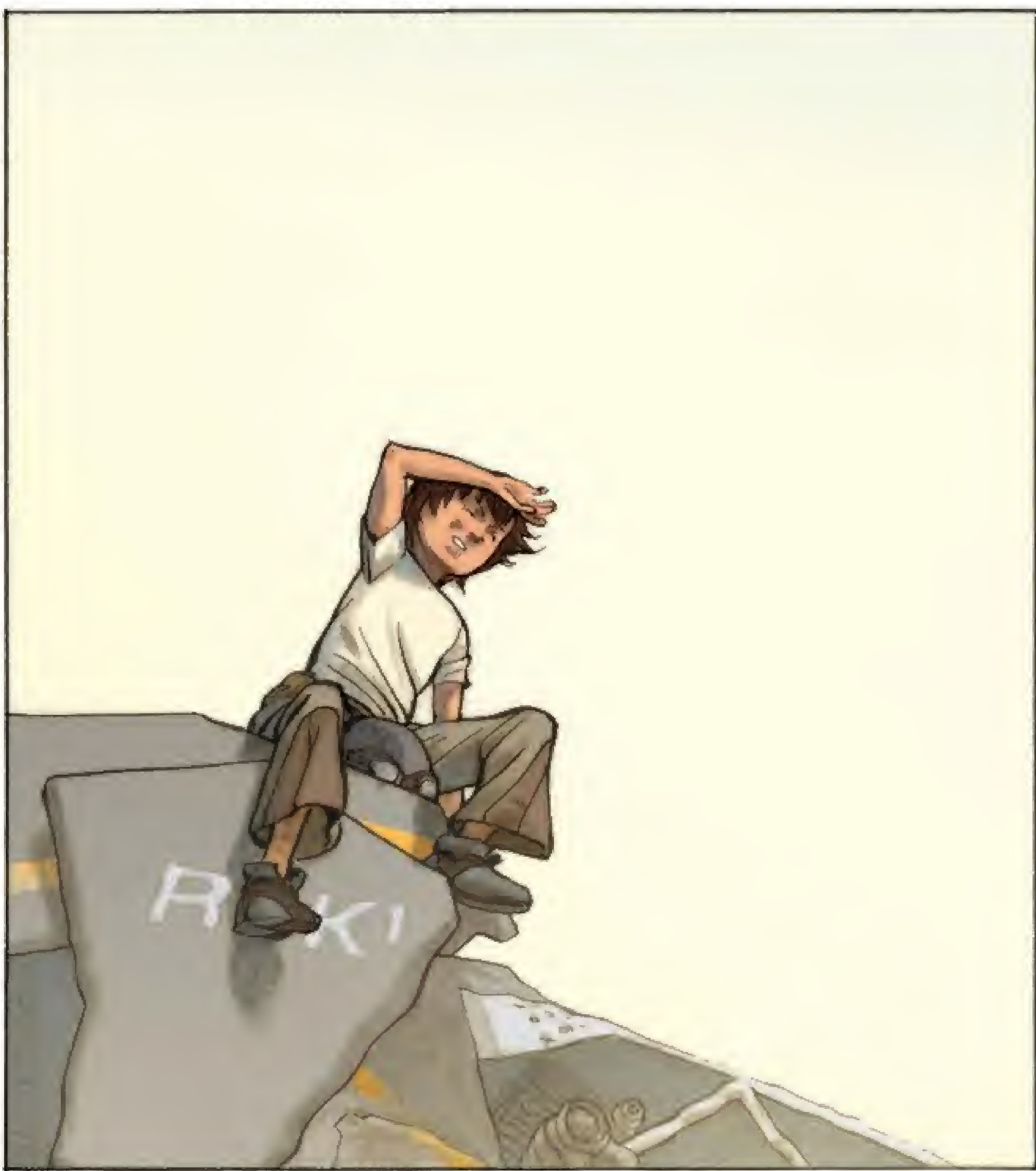
A REAL COMMANDO, YOU ARE. A STUDENT OF MAJOR STONE...

YOU KNOW, HAIVÉ WON'T ALWAYS BE AROUND. THE SURVIVING HUMANS WILL BE HAPPY TO HAVE THESE RELAY POINTS AROUND, TO AVOID STARTING FROM SCRATCH...



AND IT'S BETTER TO THINK A LITTLE ABOUT THE FUTURE, FOR BOTH OF US.

C'MON, LET'S GO!





RIGHT.
WE STOPPING
HERE?



TO DO
WHAT?

WELL, TO SLEEP.
IT'S NIGHTTIME,
I'M EXHAUSTED...
DO I NEED TO
GO ON?



NO,
WE DON'T
HAVE
TIME.

IF YOU WANT,
YOU CAN SIT ON
MY SEAT. I'LL KEEP
GOING.

OH YEAH?



EARLIER, I WASN'T
ALLOWED IN THERE
BECAUSE I'D MESS
WITH YOUR CONTROLS,
AND NOW THAT
IT SUITS YOU,
I GOTTA GO INSIDE
THE COCKPIT?

I'M NOT A ROBOT!
I CAN'T BE AWAKE ALL
THE TIME! AND I'M NOT GOING
TO SLEEP IN SOMETHING THAT
STINKS OF OIL, THAT SHAKES
BACK AND FORTH, AND WHOSE
FOOTSTEPS WE CAN HEAR
FROM A COUPLE OF MILES OFF!



SORRY,
I SHOULD HAVE
REALIZED THAT
YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.
I'M JUST
TIRED...



NO, I DO
UNDERSTAND.
MORE THAN
YOU COULD
IMAGINE.

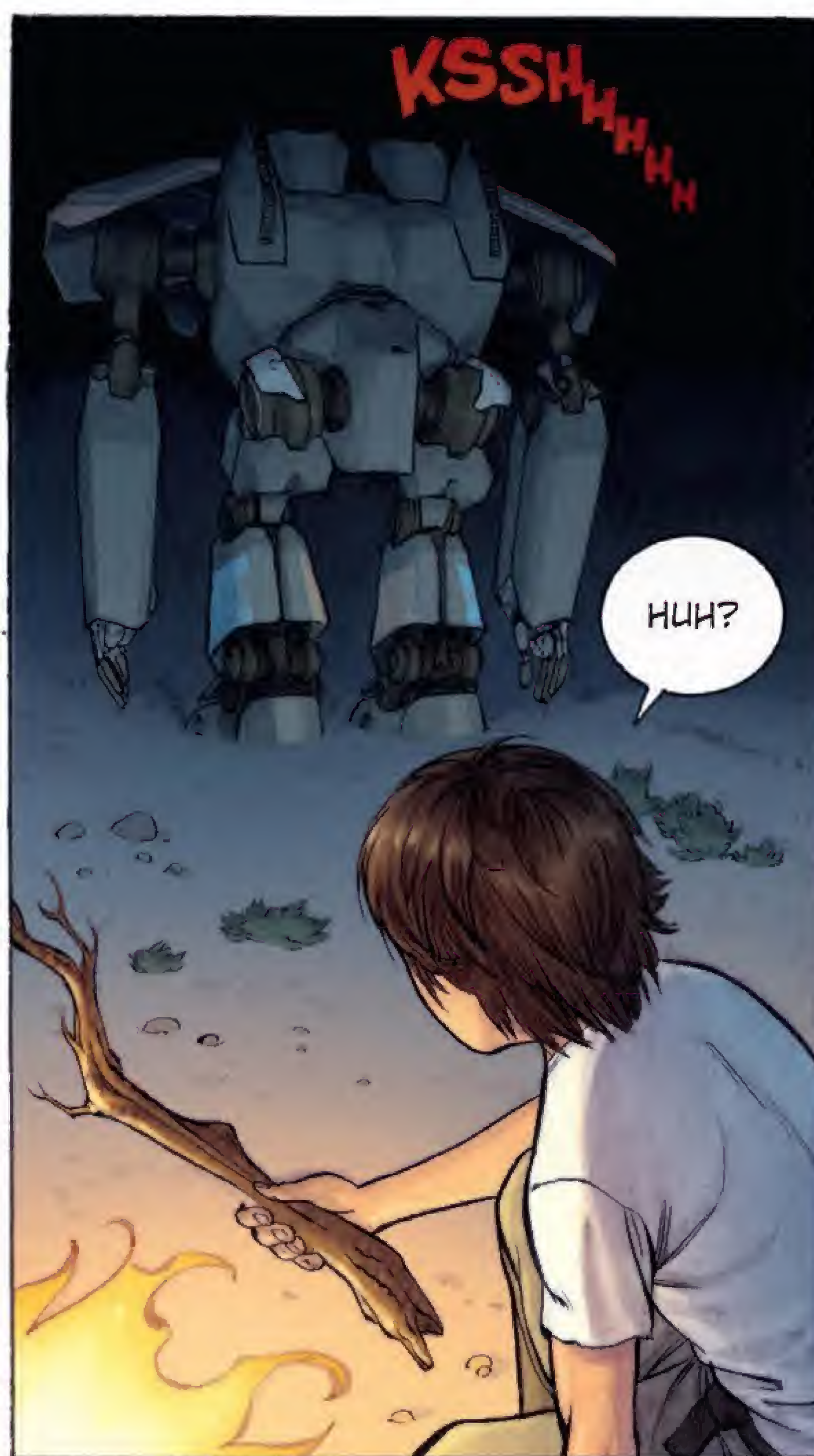
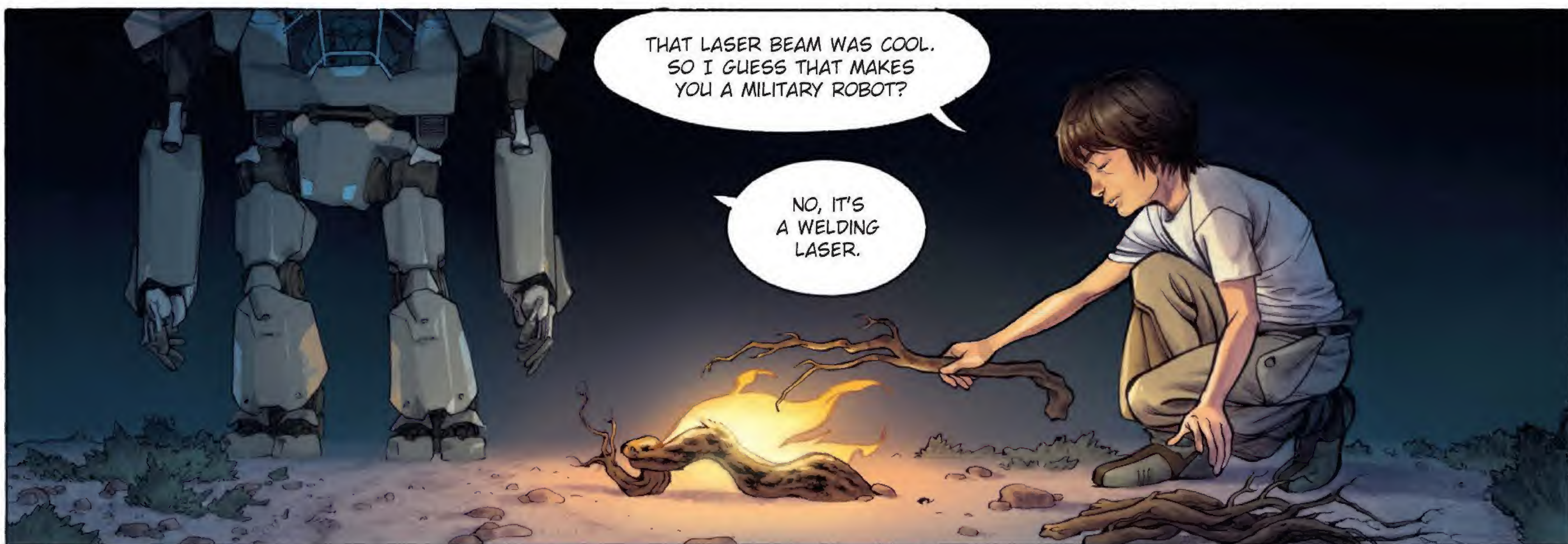
ACTUALLY,
I COULD MAKE
MORE OF AN
EFFORT, AND
WAIT...

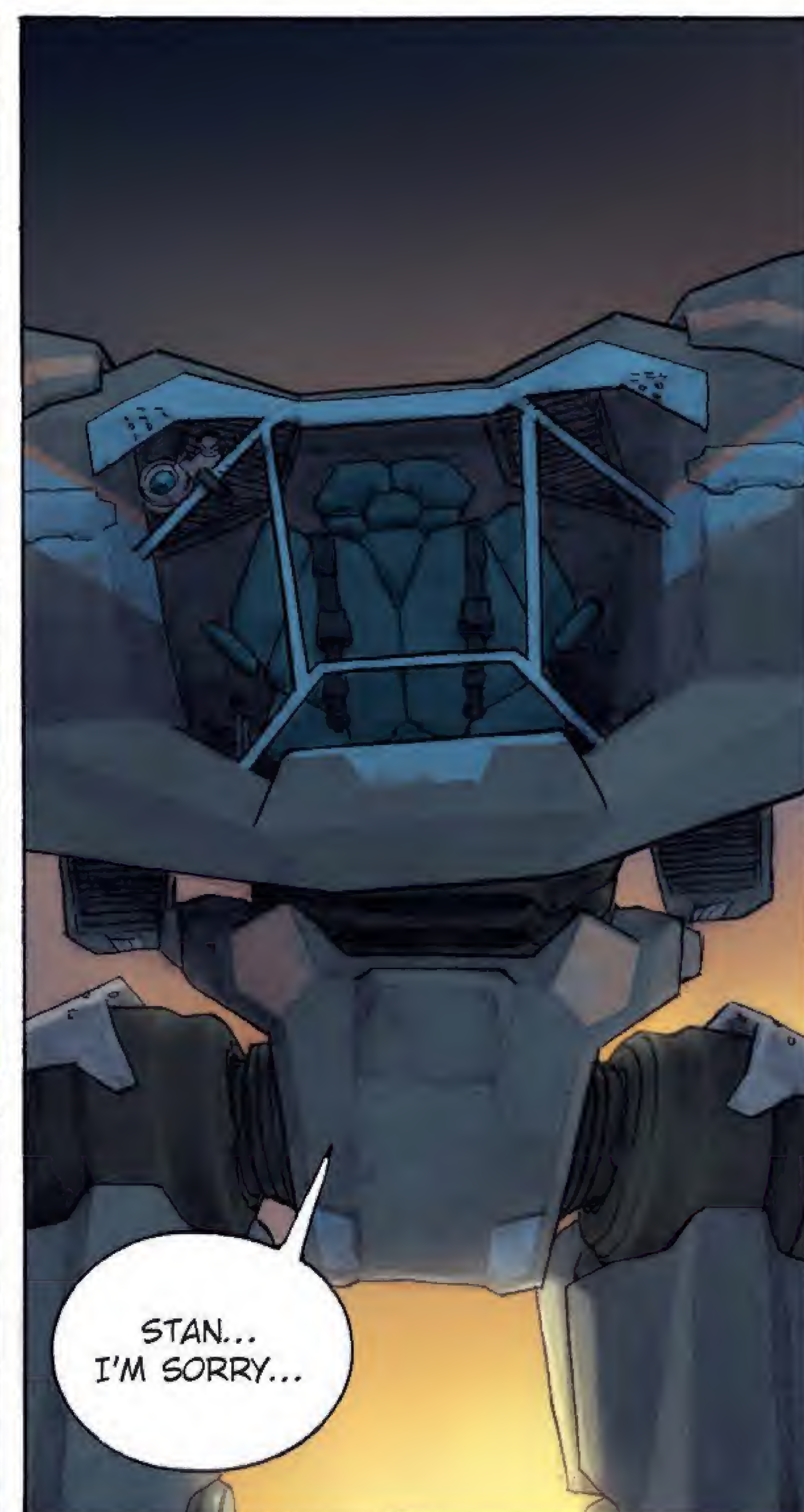
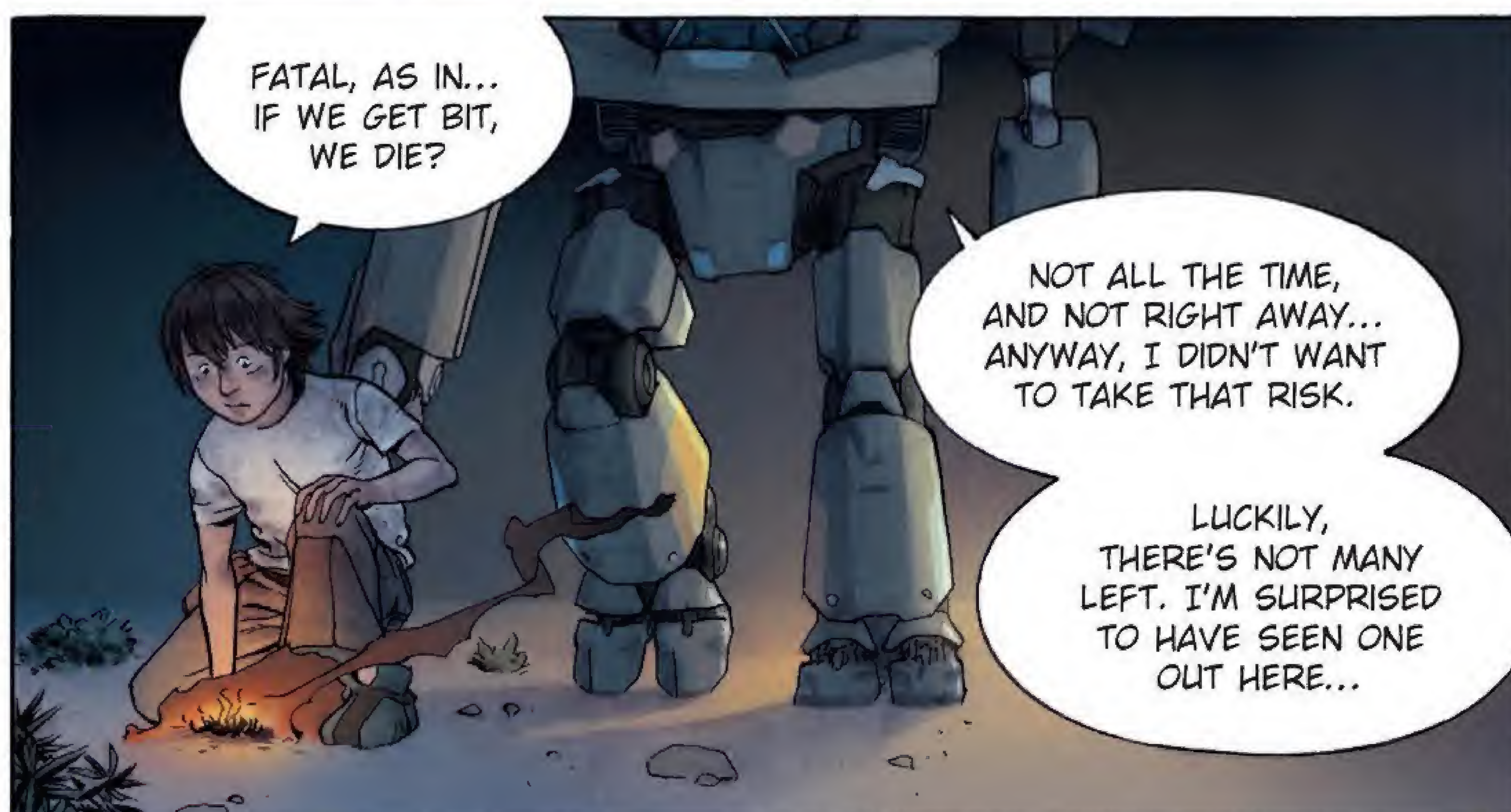


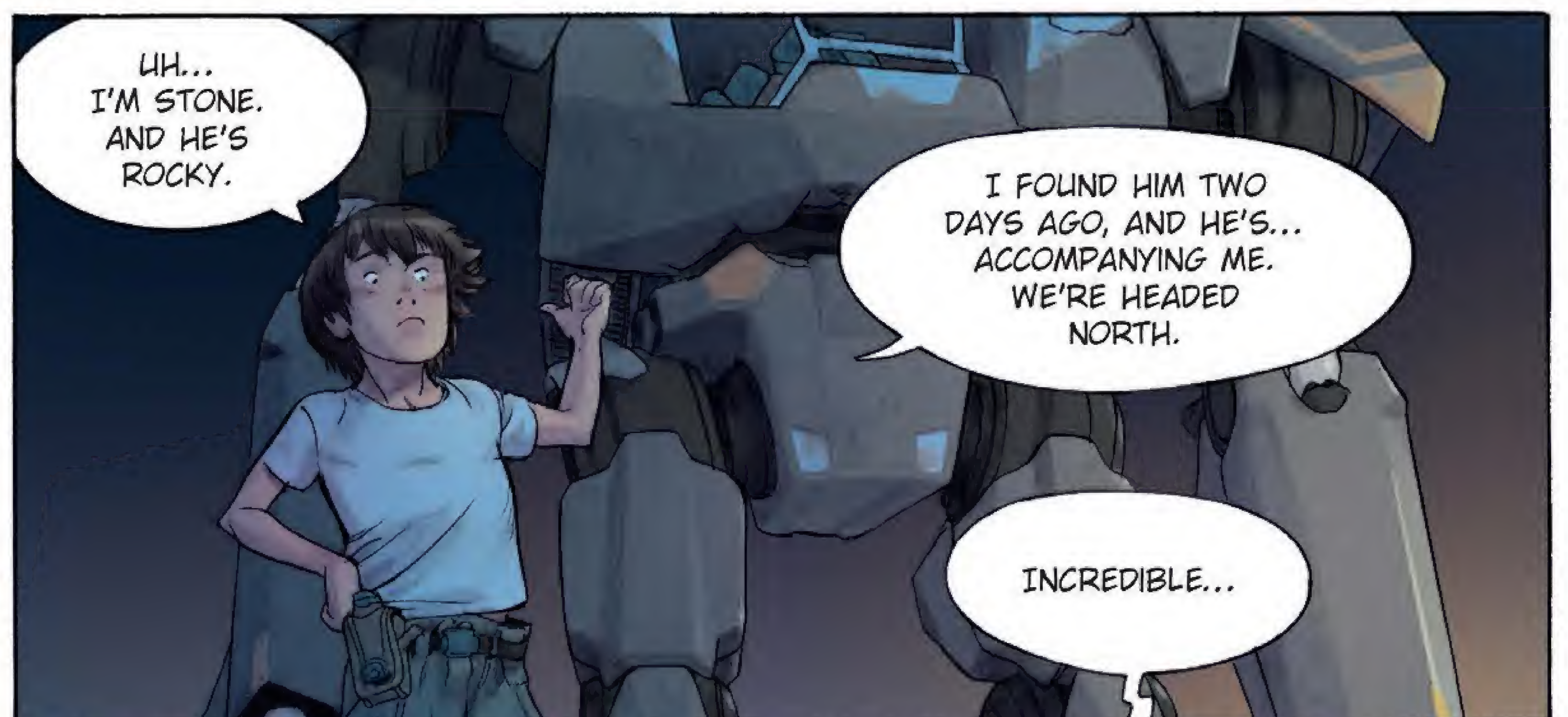
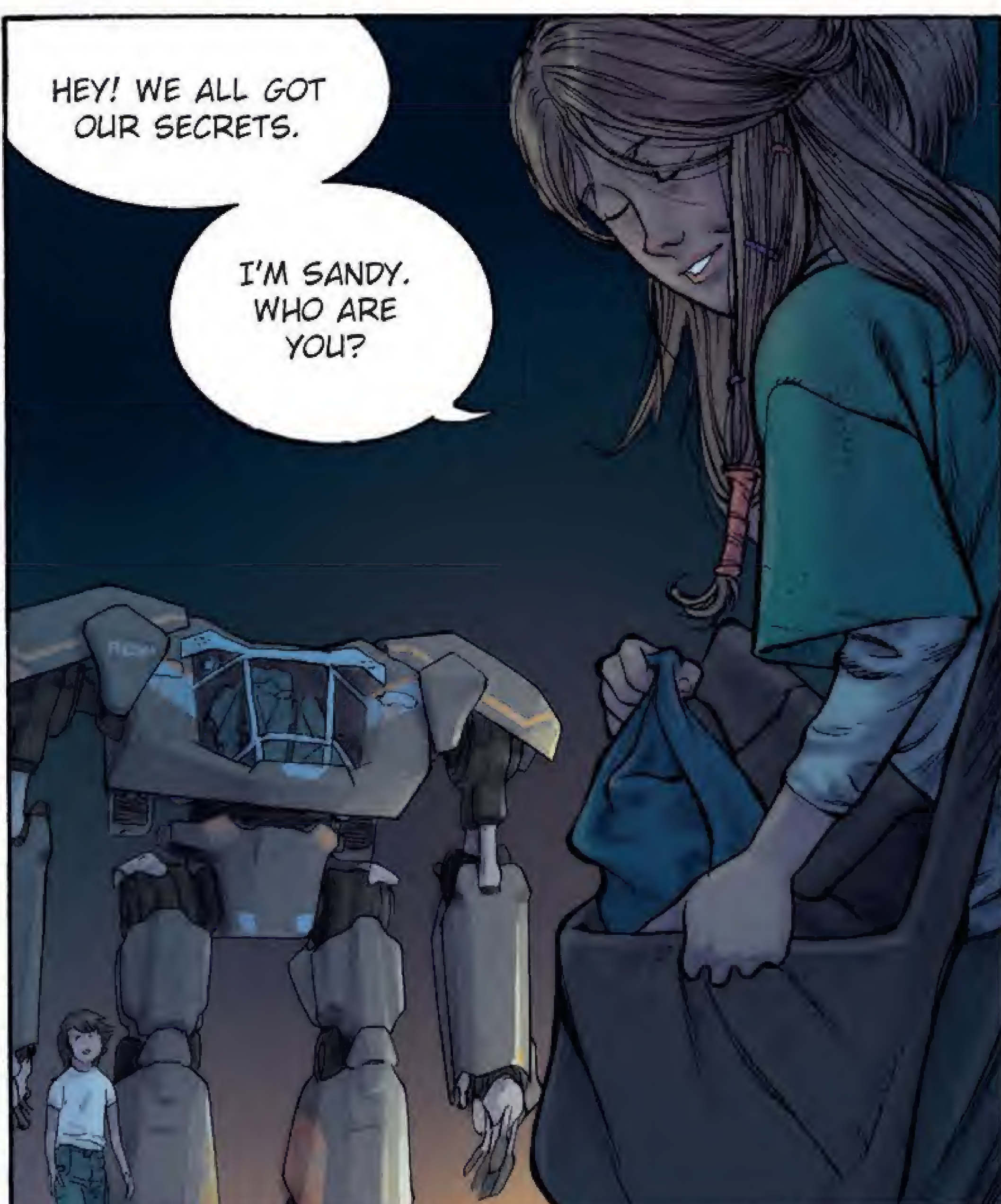
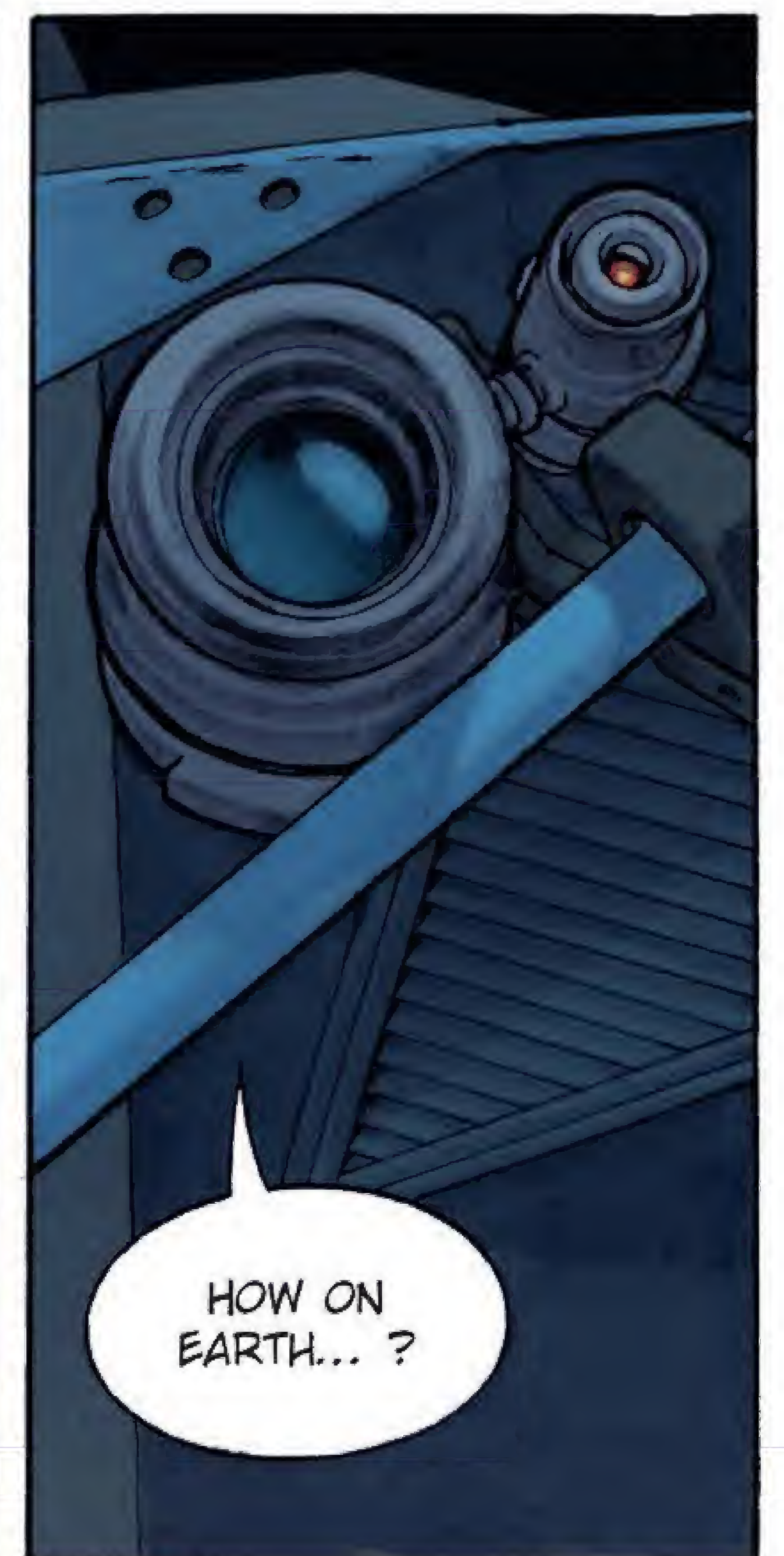
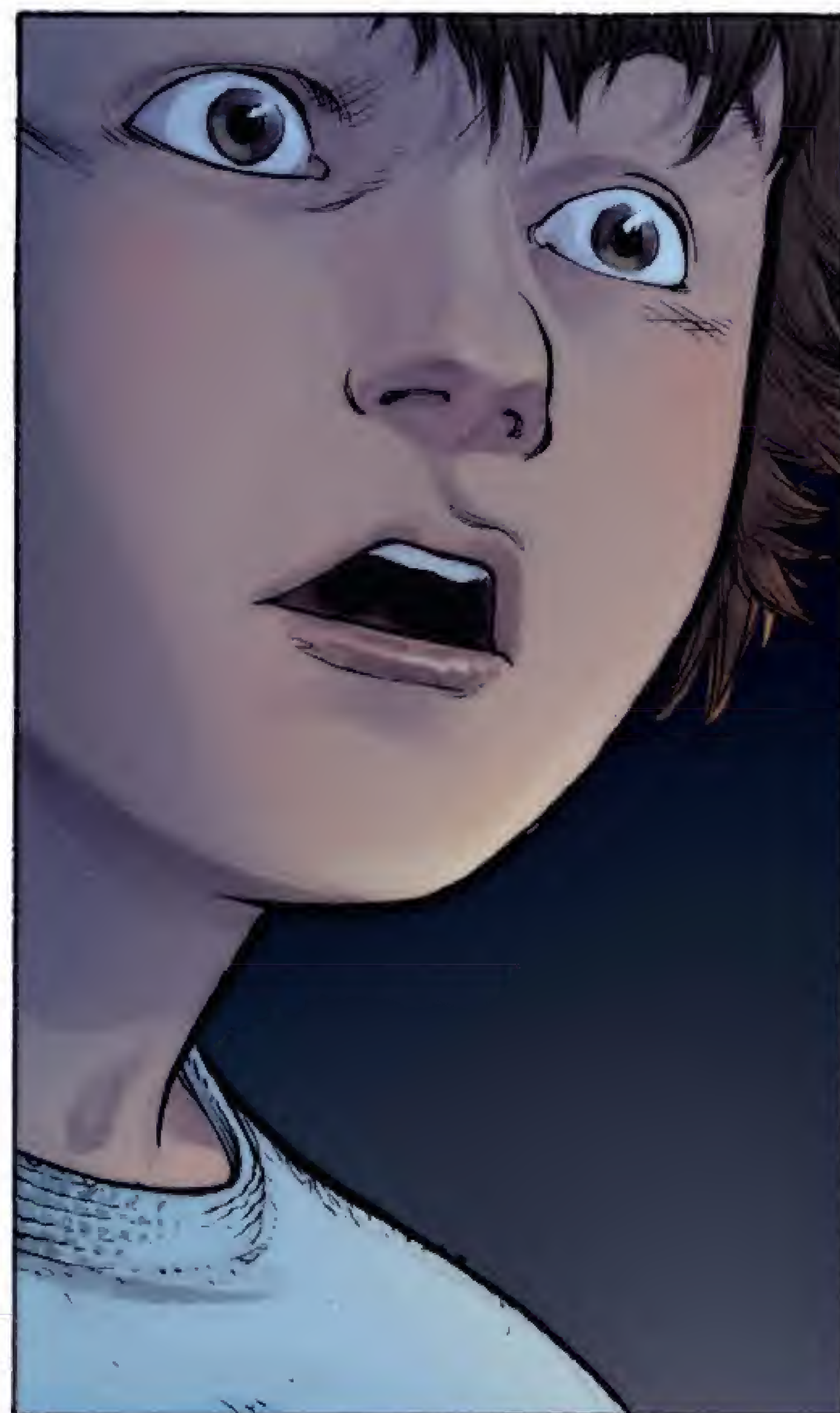
FRSH!

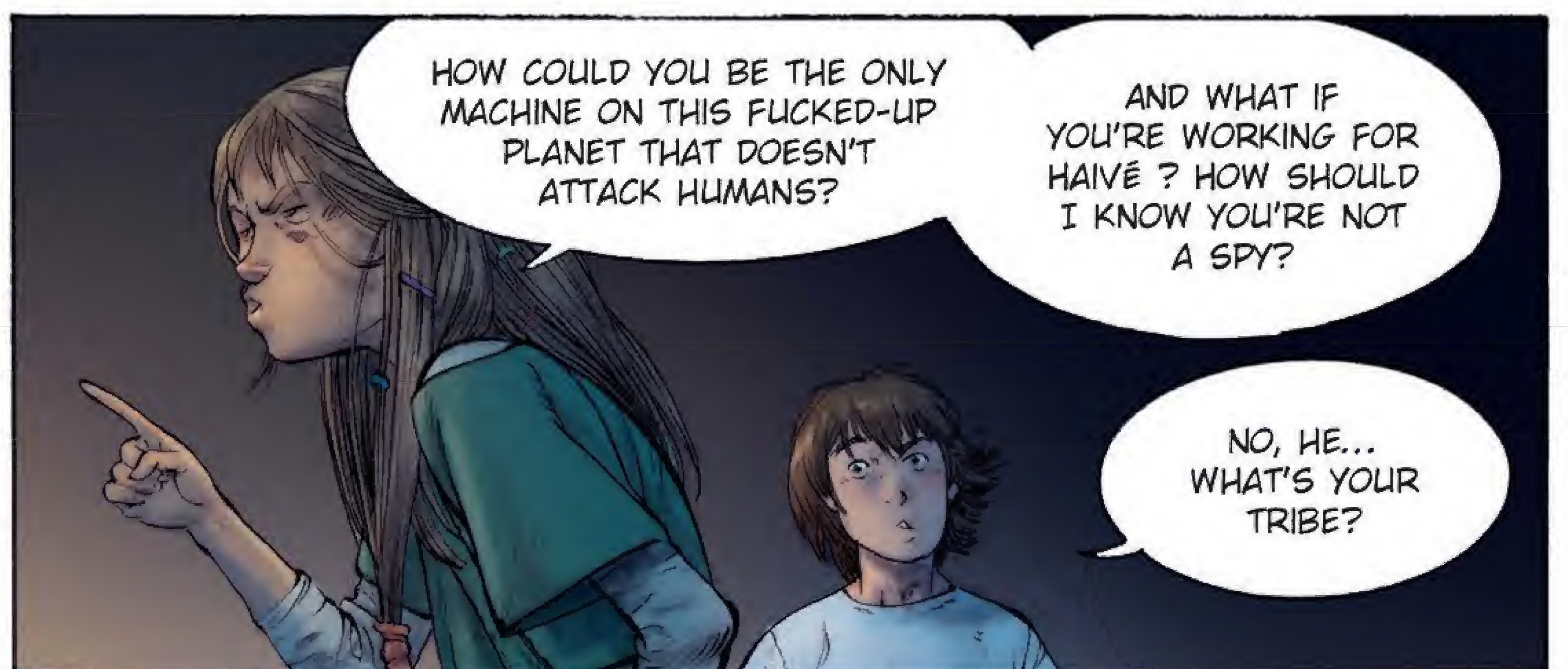
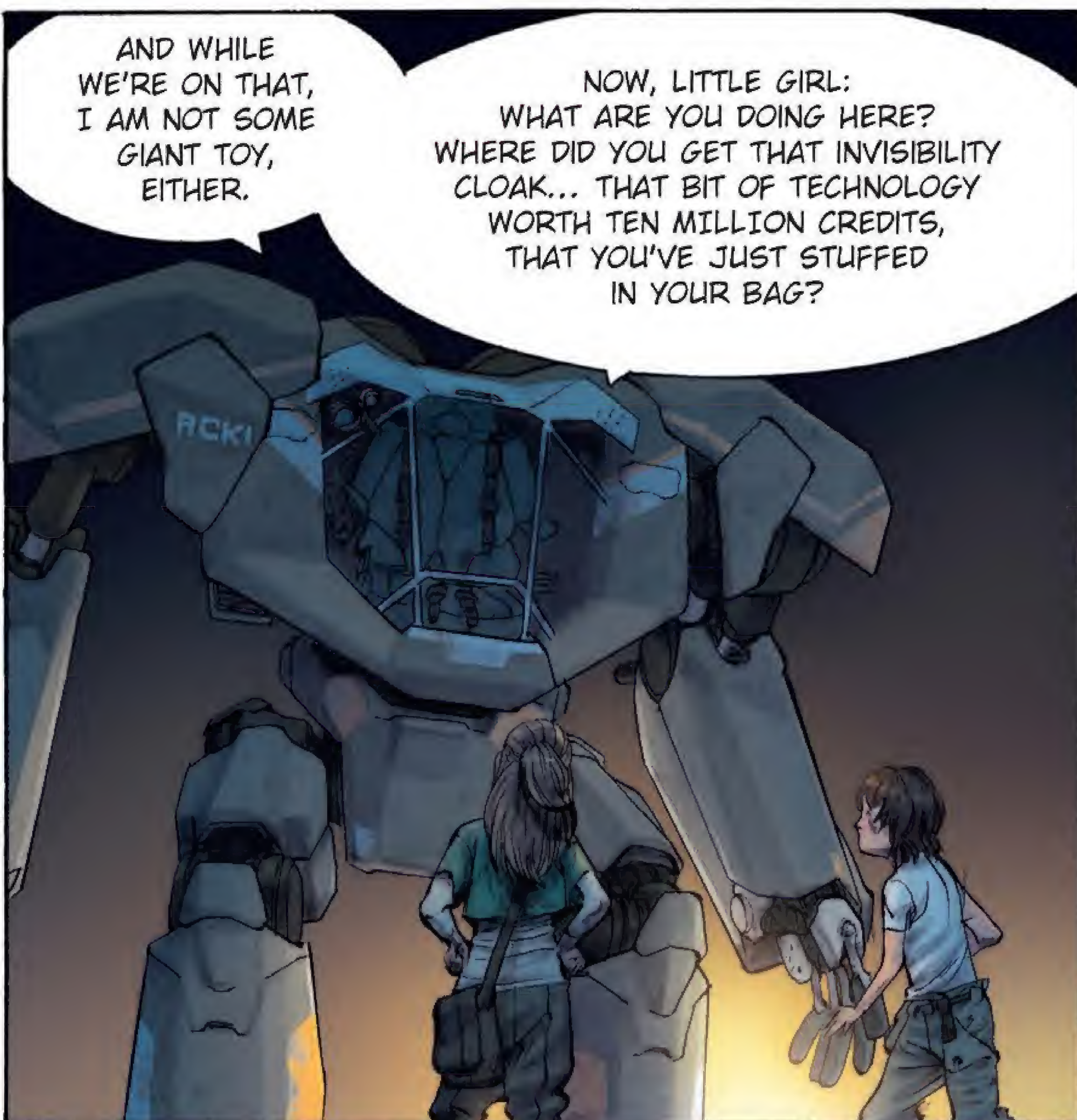
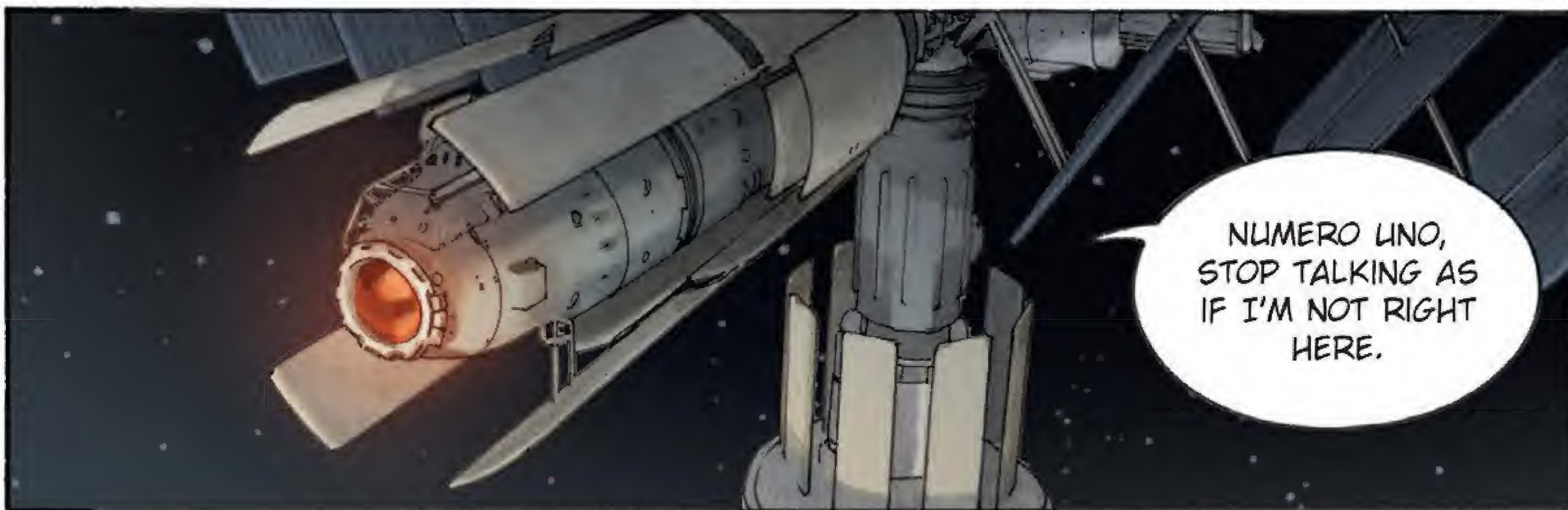
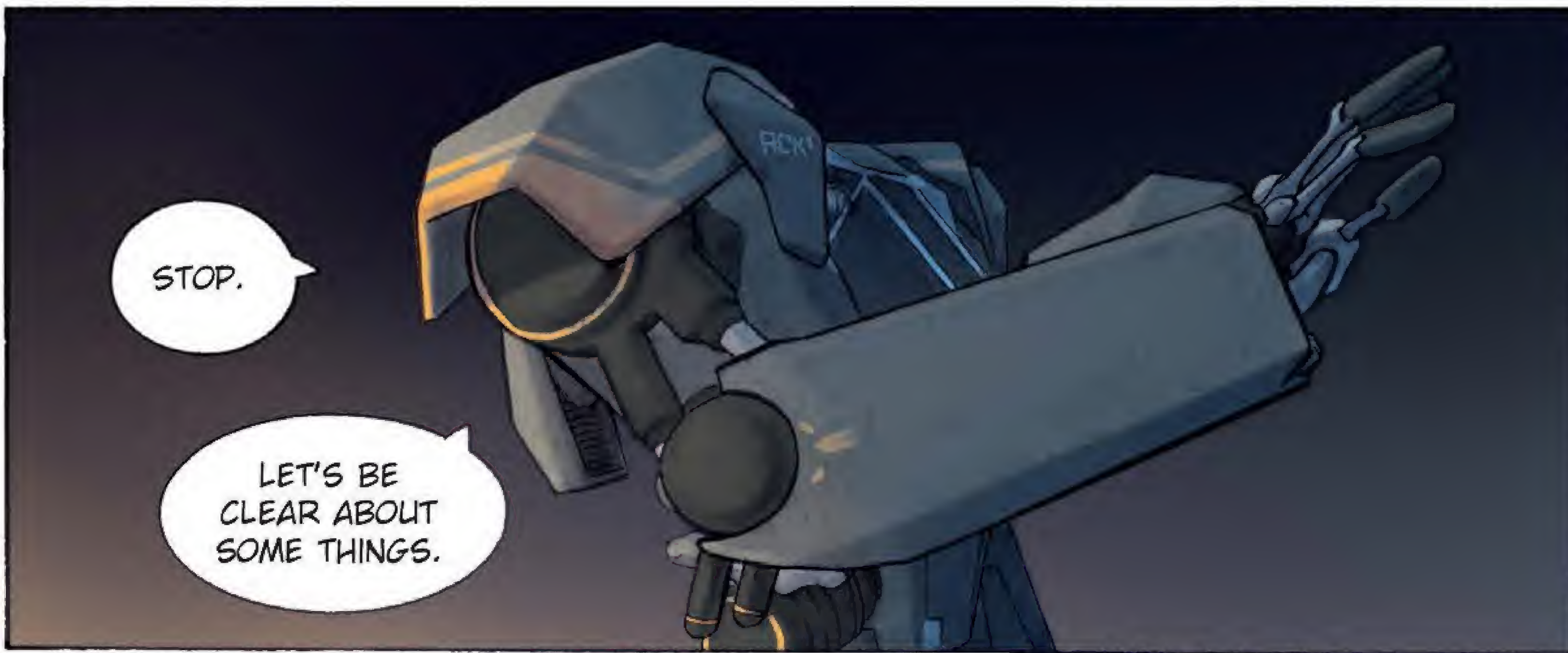


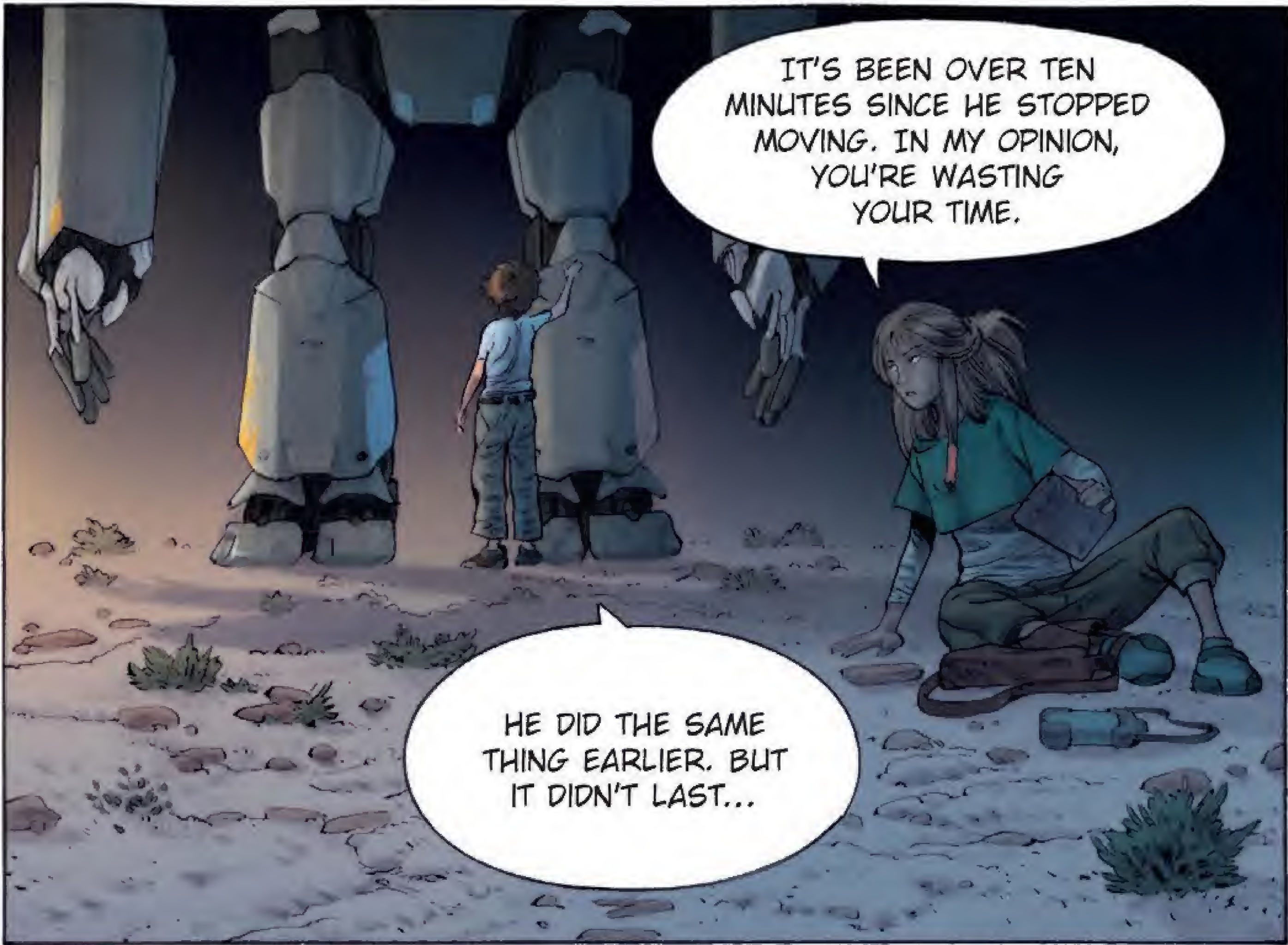
YOU GOTTA FIND
OTHER BRANCHES.
THE NIGHTS ARE
COLD OUT HERE...

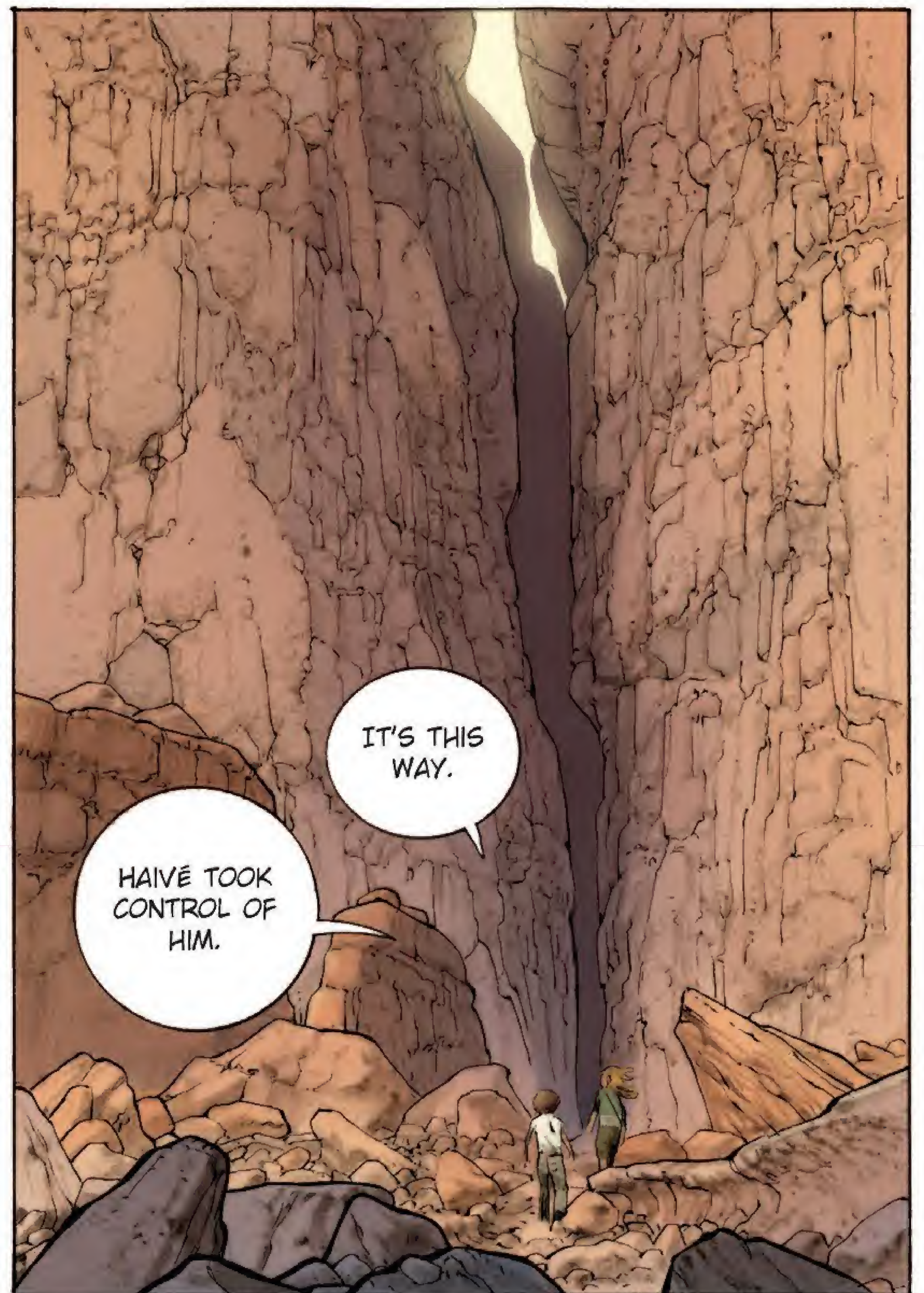
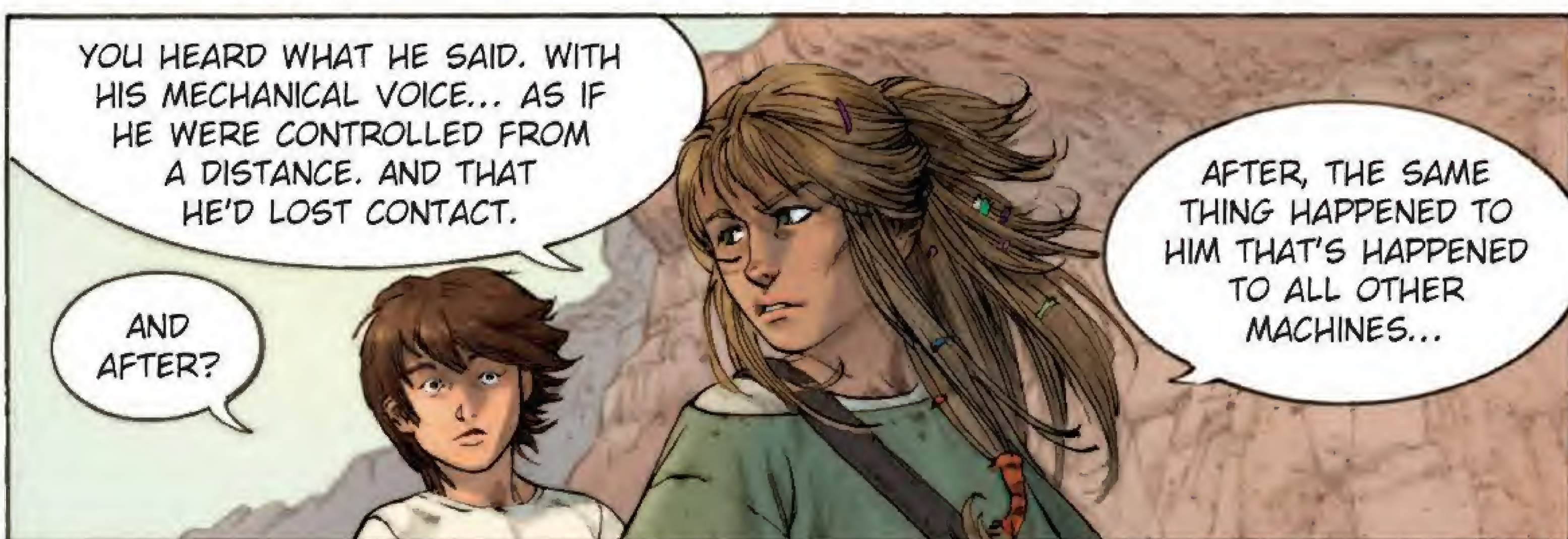












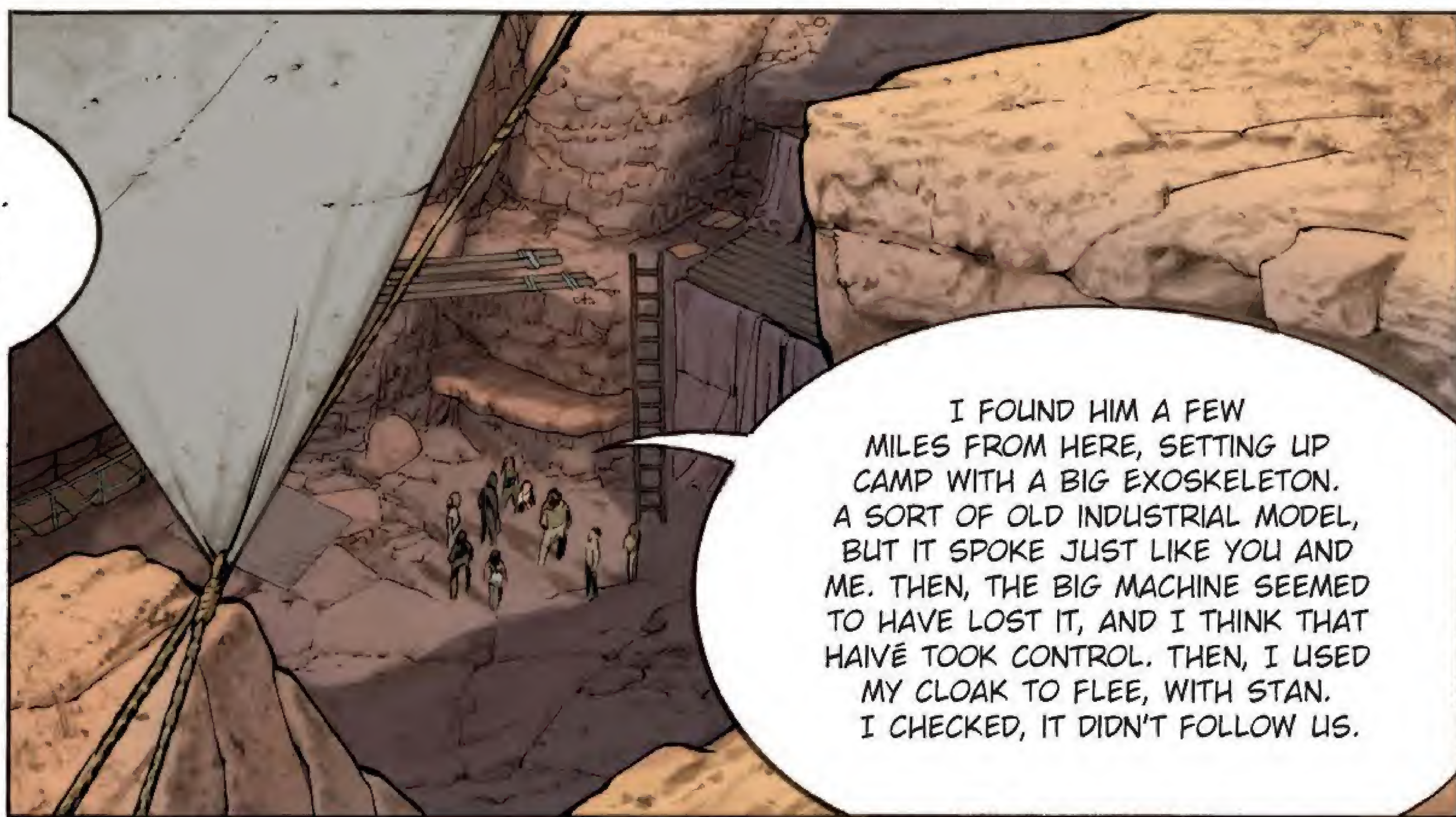




WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THAT ABOUT?

WHERE IS HE NOW, THIS ROBOT?

STAN... WELL, STONE... LET ME DO THE TALKING, OKAY?



I FOUND HIM A FEW MILES FROM HERE, SETTING UP CAMP WITH A BIG EXOSKELETON. A SORT OF OLD INDUSTRIAL MODEL, BUT IT SPOKE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME. THEN, THE BIG MACHINE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST IT, AND I THINK THAT HAIVÉ TOOK CONTROL. THEN, I USED MY CLOAK TO FLEE, WITH STAN. I CHECKED, IT DIDN'T FOLLOW US.



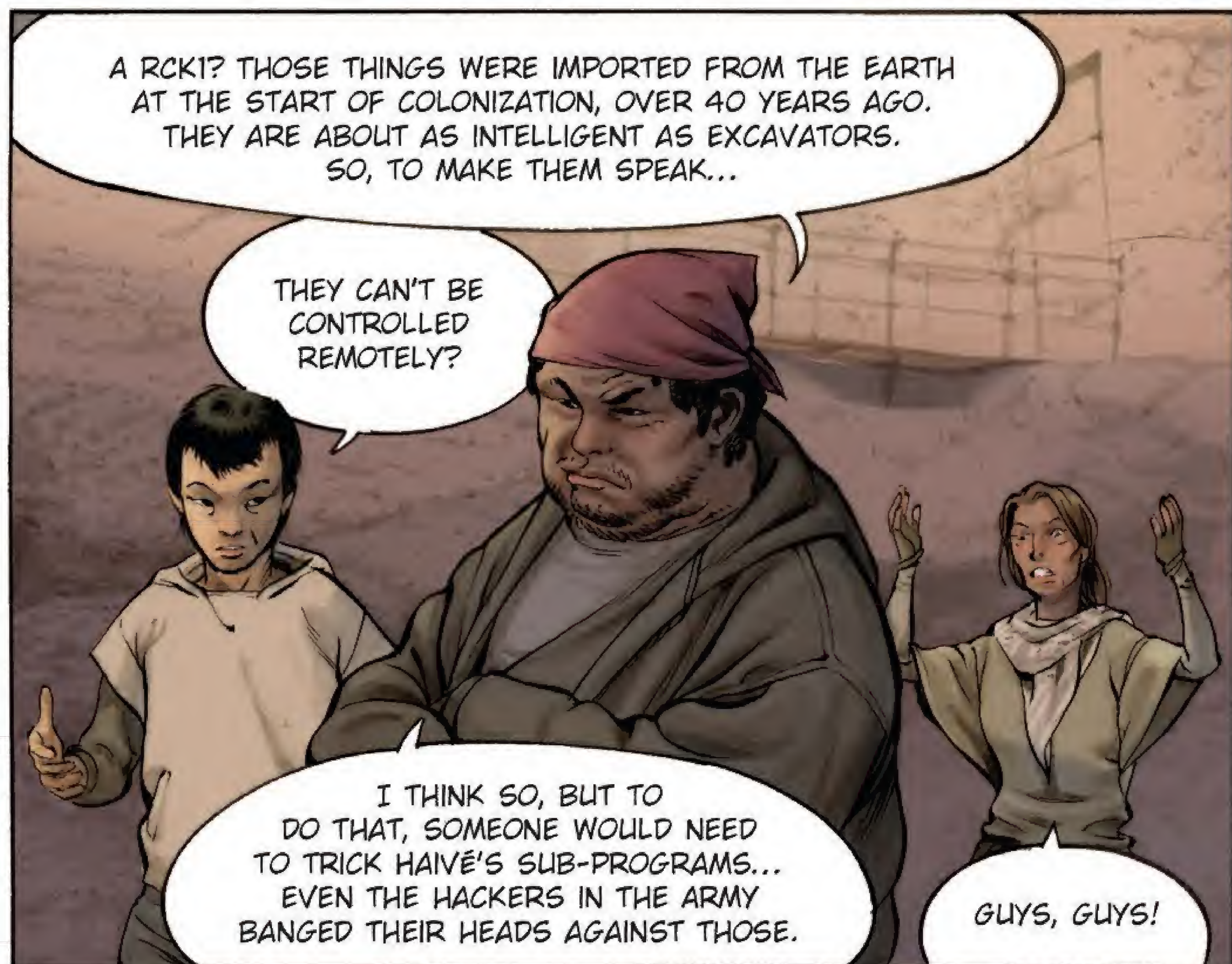
SO, THERE'S STILL MACHINES THAT AREN'T ALWAYS UNDER A.I. COMMAND? THAT SEEMS PRETTY FAR-FETCHED...

THAT ROBOT, DID IT HAVE SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT?



UH...

YES. "RCKI".

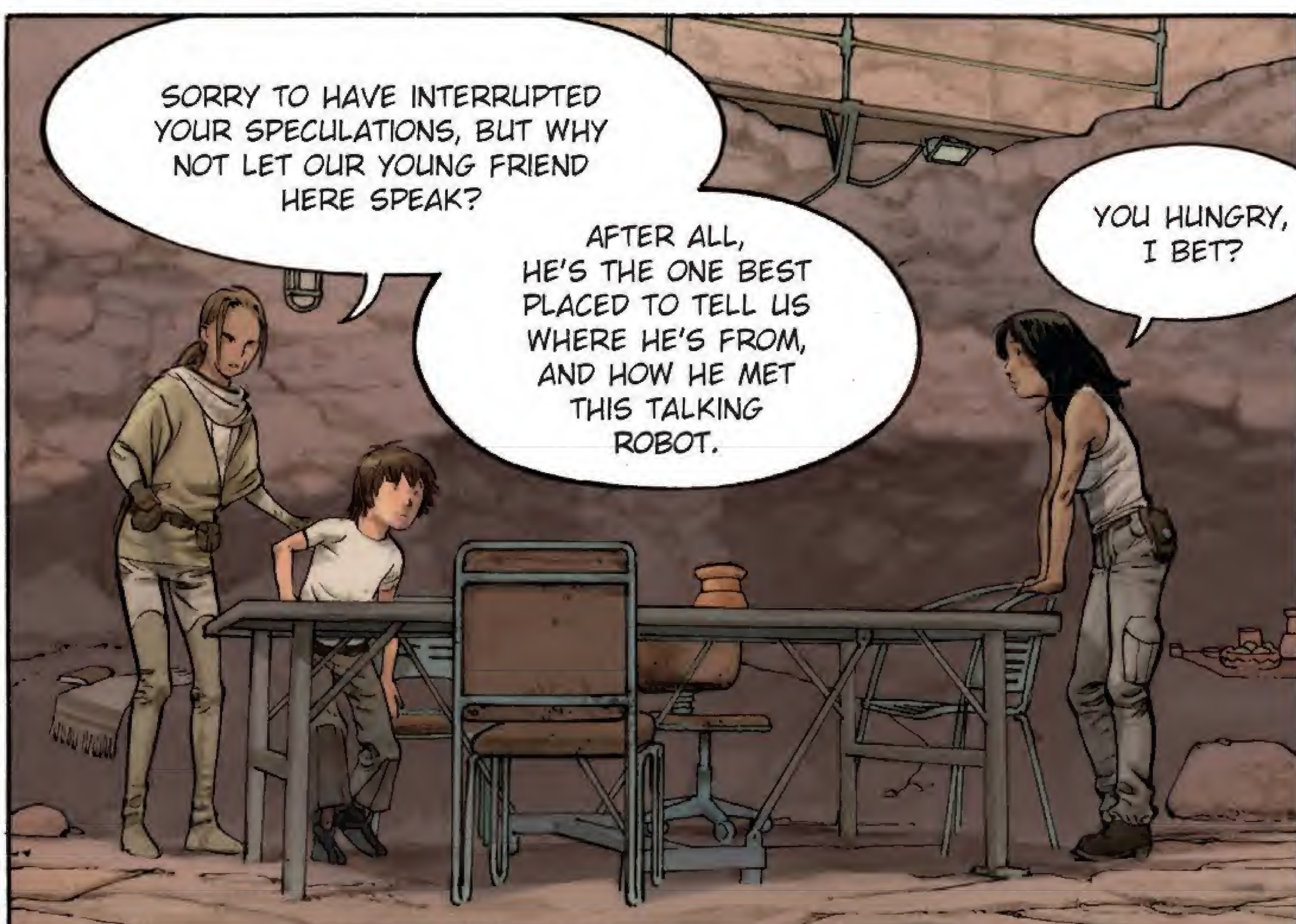


A RCKI? THOSE THINGS WERE IMPORTED FROM THE EARTH AT THE START OF COLONIZATION, OVER 40 YEARS AGO. THEY ARE ABOUT AS INTELLIGENT AS EXCAVATORS. SO, TO MAKE THEM SPEAK...

THEY CAN'T BE CONTROLLED REMOTELY?

I THINK SO, BUT TO DO THAT, SOMEONE WOULD NEED TO TRICK HAIVÉ'S SUB-PROGRAMS... EVEN THE HACKERS IN THE ARMY BANGED THEIR HEADS AGAINST THOSE.

GUYS, GUYS!



SORRY TO HAVE INTERRUPTED YOUR SPECULATIONS, BUT WHY NOT LET OUR YOUNG FRIEND HERE SPEAK?

AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE BEST PLACED TO TELL US WHERE HE'S FROM, AND HOW HE MET THIS TALKING ROBOT.

YOU HUNGRY, I BET?



UH... A LITTLE.

HERE.

AND DON'T LISTEN TO THAT IDIOT BLACKJACK. WE GOT ENOUGH TO GO AROUND FOR GUESTS....

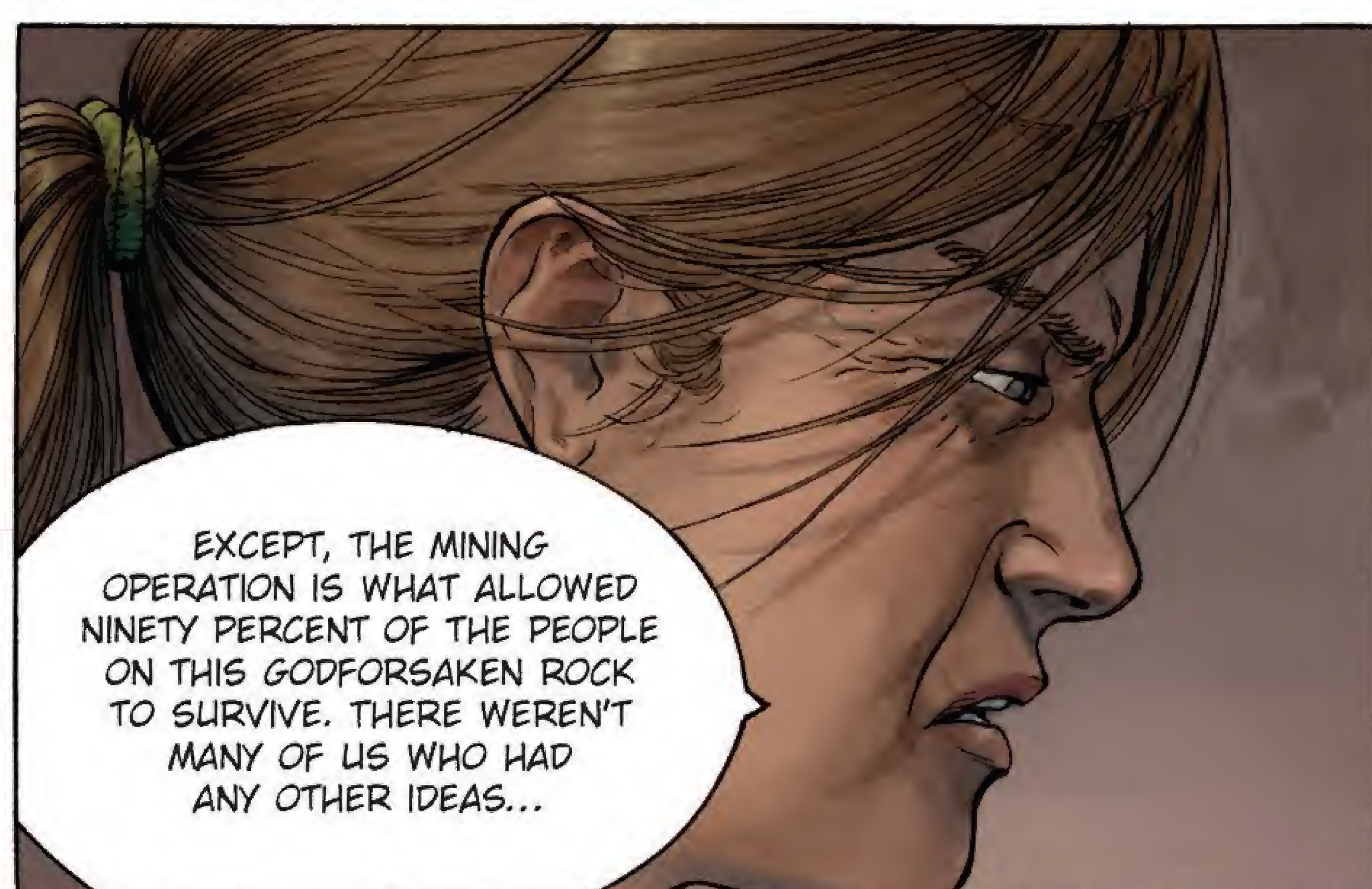
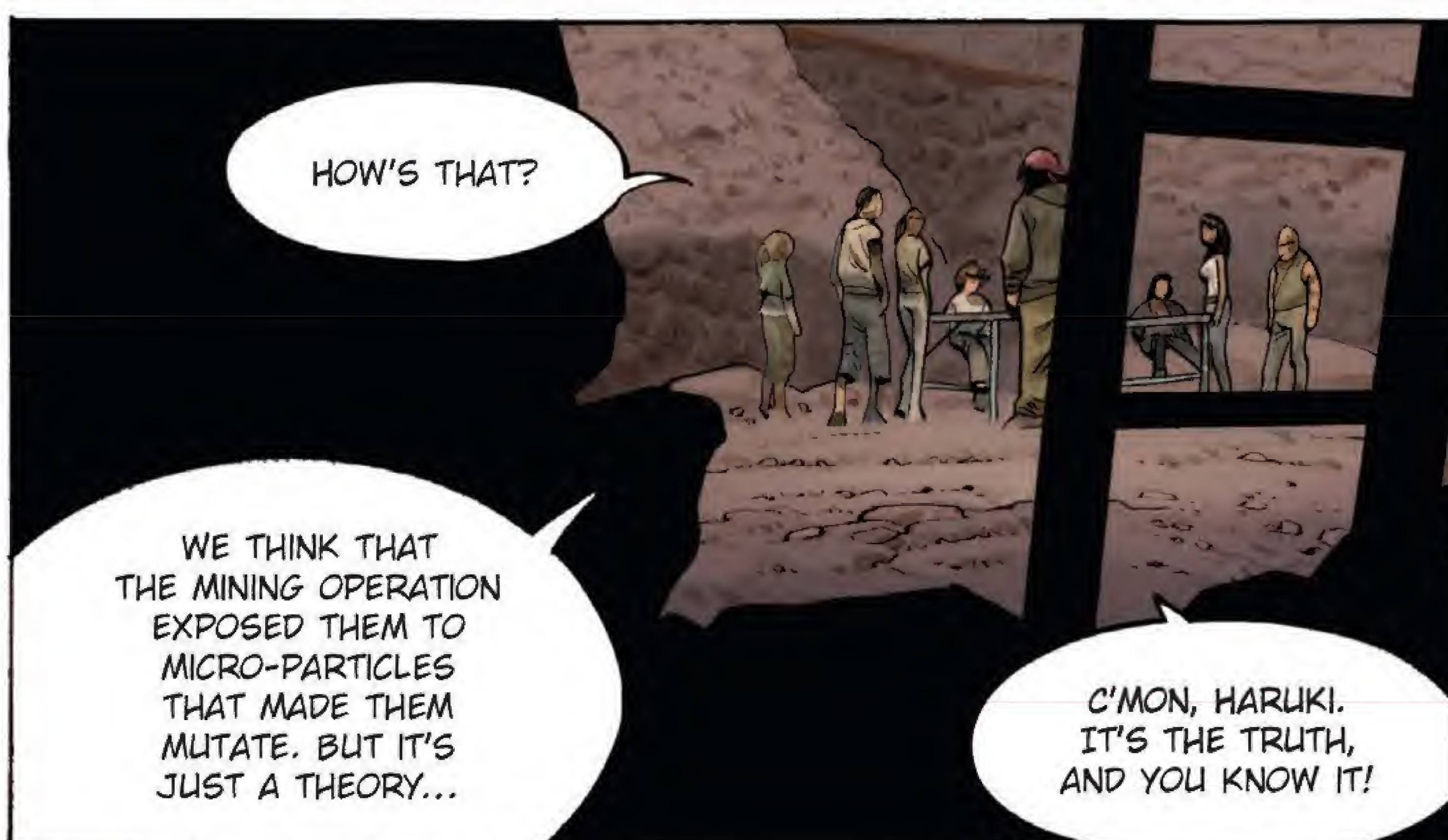
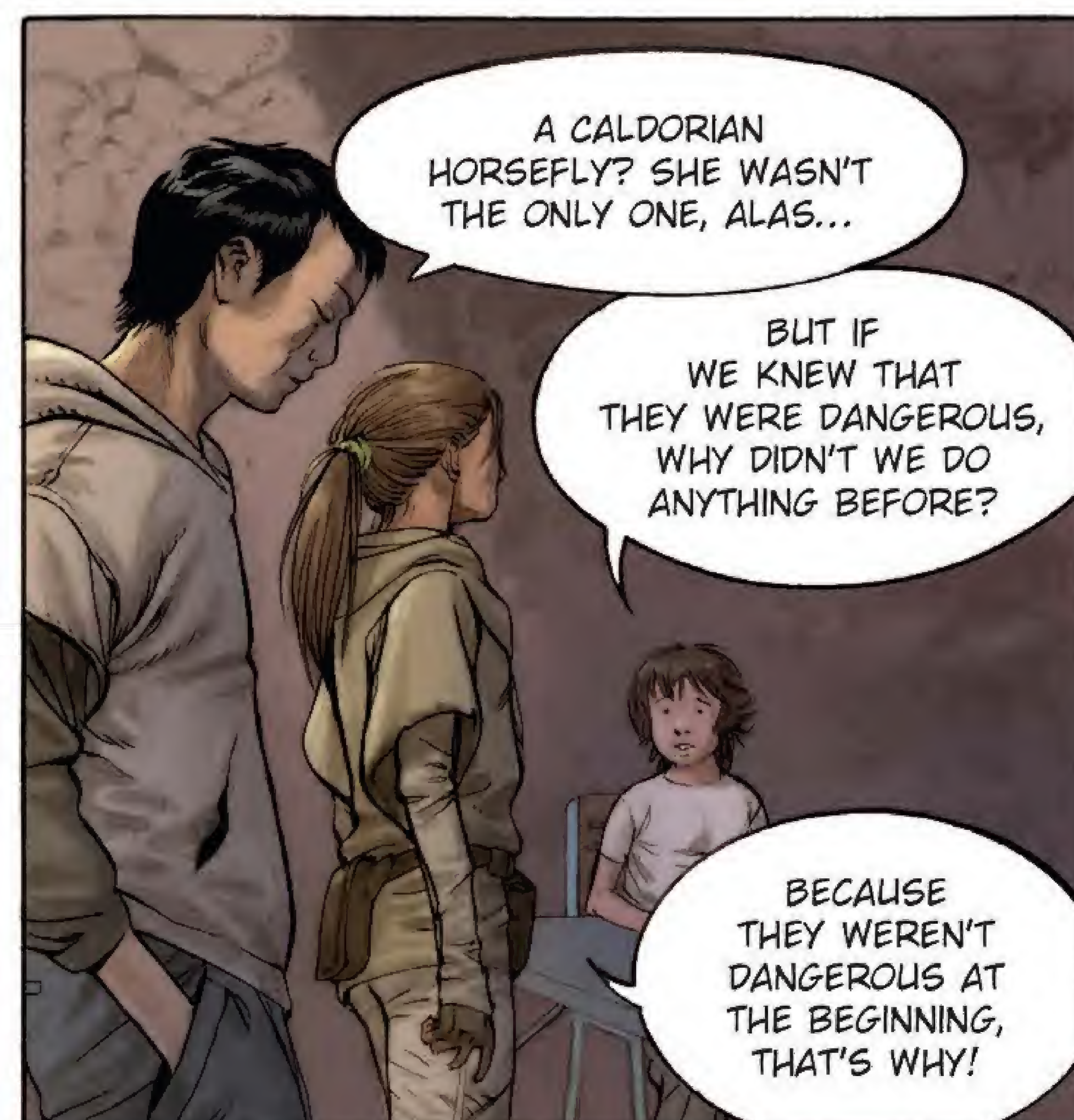
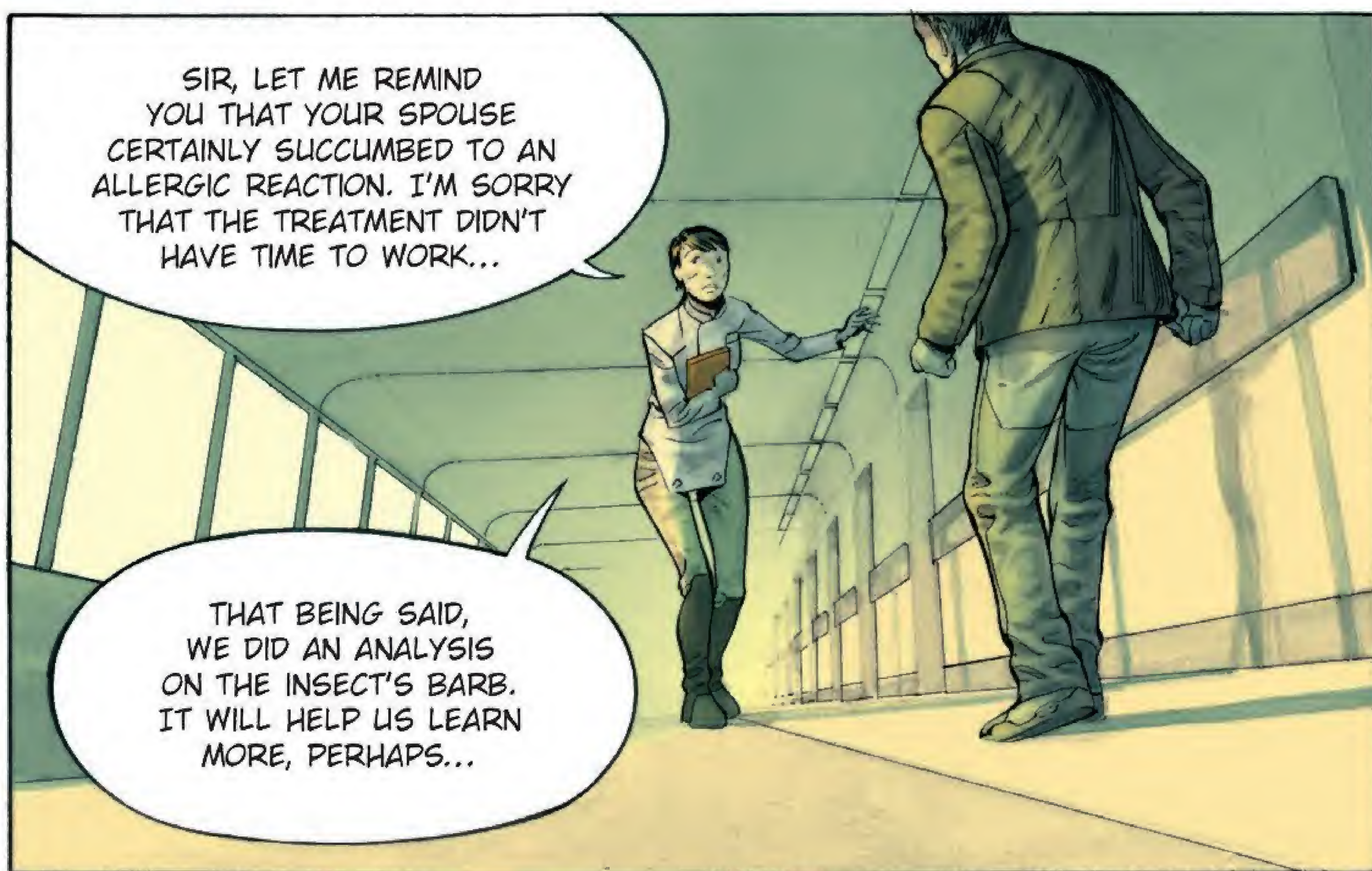


LEMME JUST SHAY, IT'SH PRETTY - GULP - COMPLICATED...

NO RUSH. TAKE YOUR TIME...

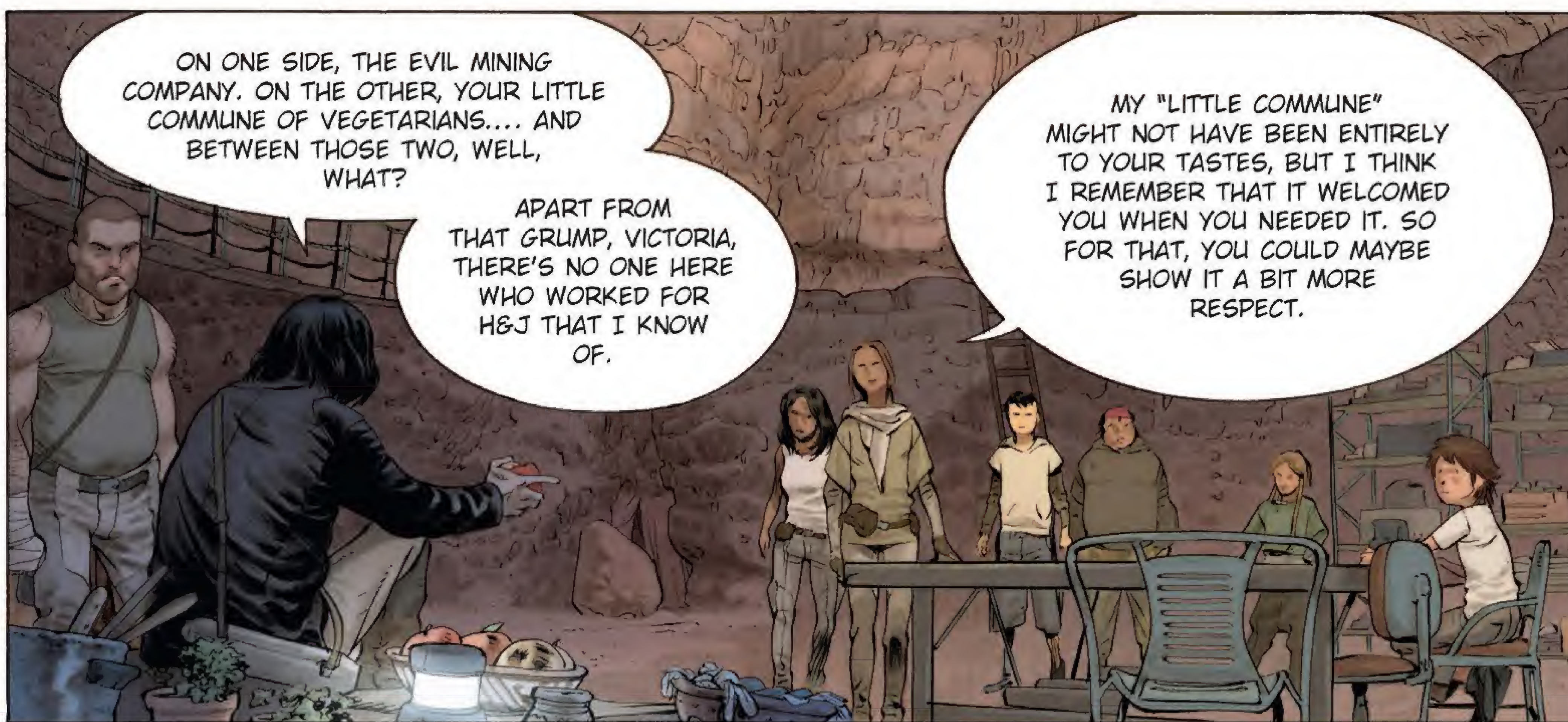


DON'T HESITATE TO TELL US EVERYTHING, FROM THE START.





WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MISS ANNA, YOU ALWAYS REPEAT THE SAME SPIEL.



ON ONE SIDE, THE EVIL MINING COMPANY. ON THE OTHER, YOUR LITTLE COMMUNE OF VEGETARIANS.... AND BETWEEN THOSE TWO, WELL, WHAT?

APART FROM THAT GRUMP, VICTORIA, THERE'S NO ONE HERE WHO WORKED FOR H&J THAT I KNOW OF.

MY "LITTLE COMMUNE" MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY TO YOUR TASTES, BUT I THINK I REMEMBER THAT IT WELCOMED YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED IT. SO FOR THAT, YOU COULD MAYBE SHOW IT A BIT MORE RESPECT.



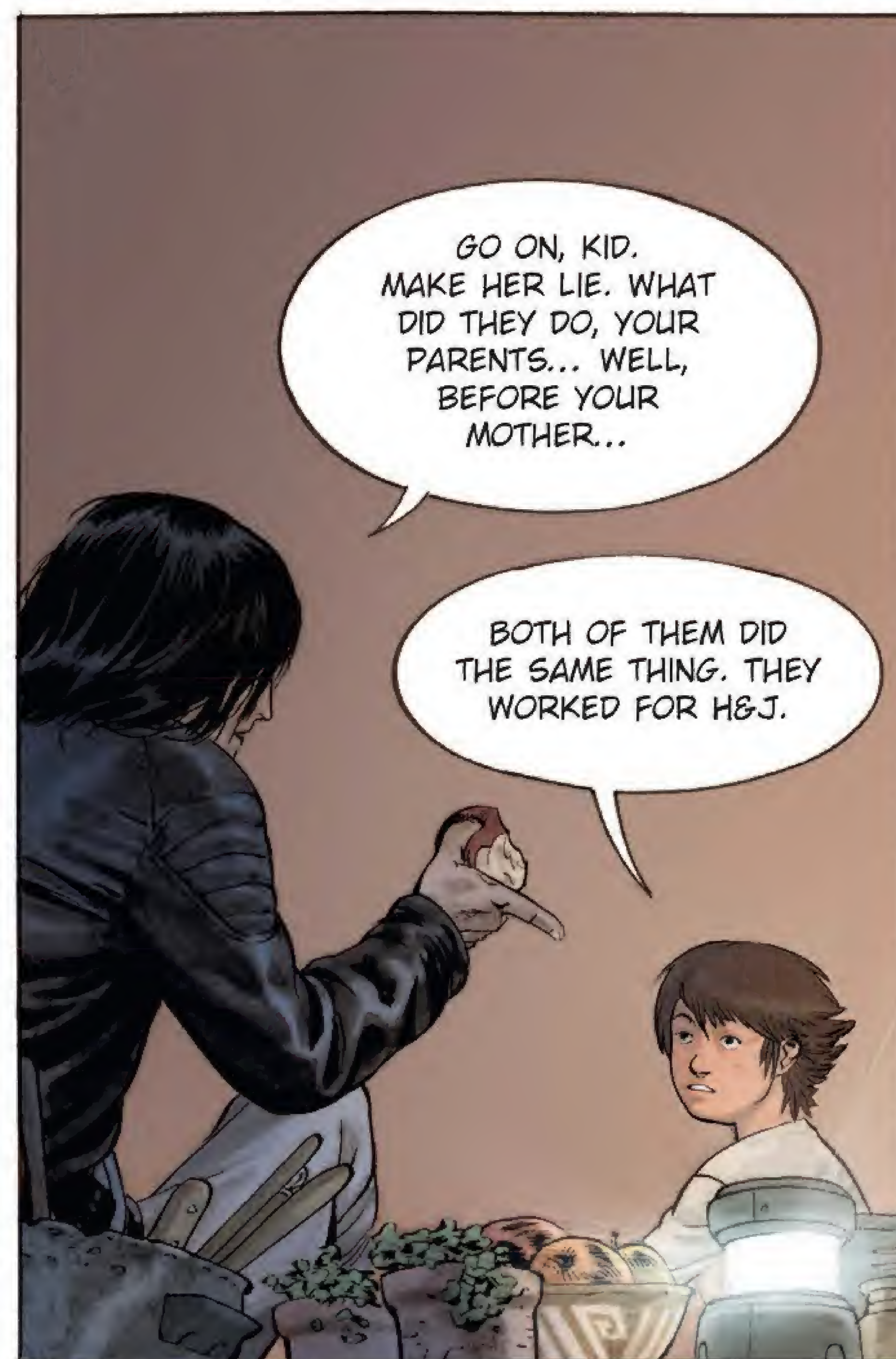
PLUS HER VEGETABLES, YOU AIN'T THE LAST ONE TO EAT THEM, NO?

AS FOR THE HARPER & JONES MINING COMPANY, YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE HOLD IT HAD OVER THE WHOLE OF OUR SOCIETY.

THE POLICE, OUR HEALTH SERVICES, THEY WERE ALL BANKROLLED BY IT...



NOT TO MENTION CERTAIN, LESS LEGAL ACTIVITIES, THAT WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY HAD A HARDER TIME IN ITS ABSENCE.



GO ON, KID. MAKE HER LIE. WHAT DID THEY DO, YOUR PARENTS... WELL, BEFORE YOUR MOTHER...

BOTH OF THEM DID THE SAME THING. THEY WORKED FOR H&J.



"THEY WORKED FOR THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT."

WHERE'S DADDY?



STILL AT WORK, BUT HE SHOULD BE COMING BACK SOON.

GO BACK TO BED, LITTLE MAN. IT'S LATE, YOU KNOW...

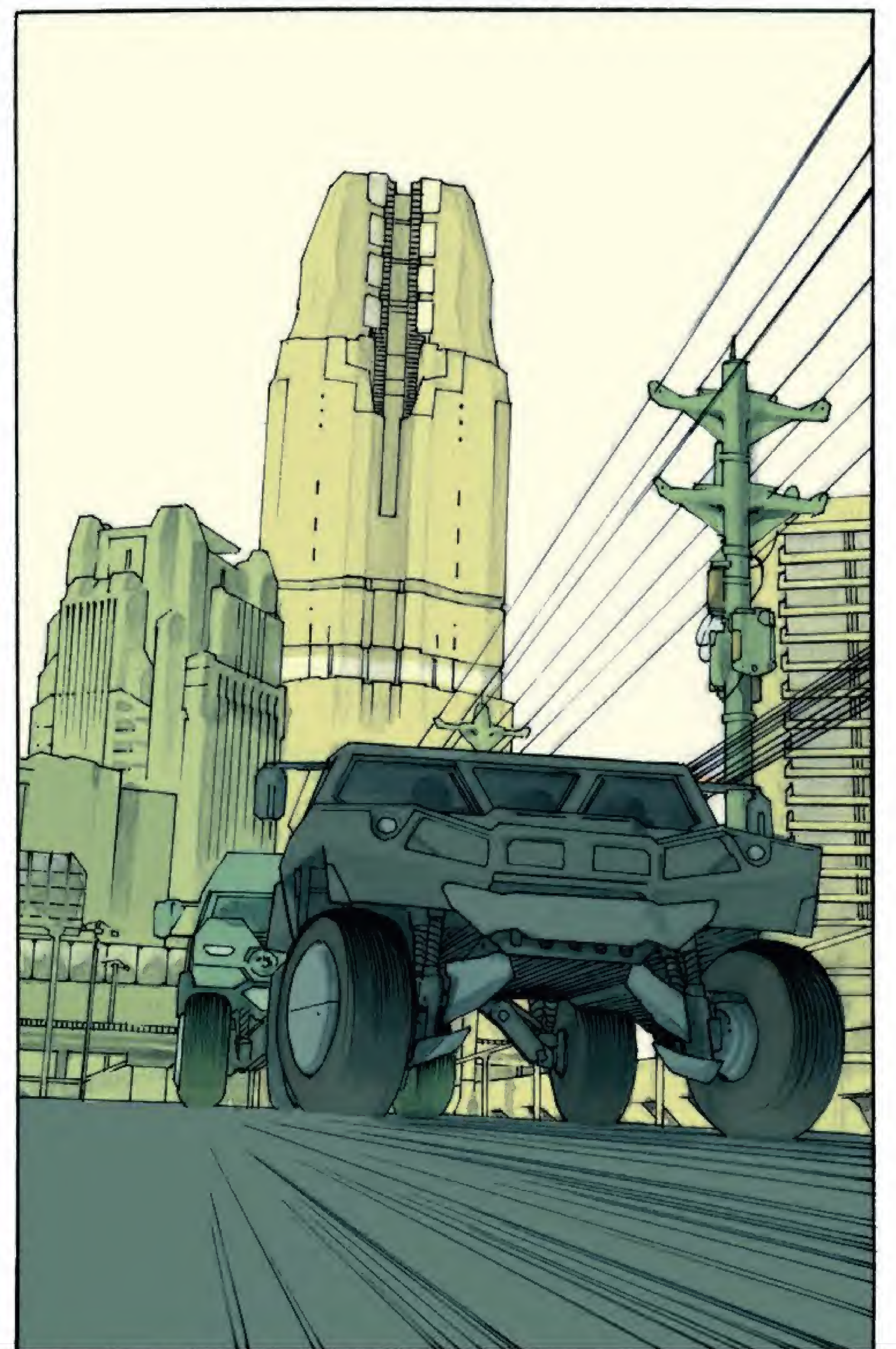
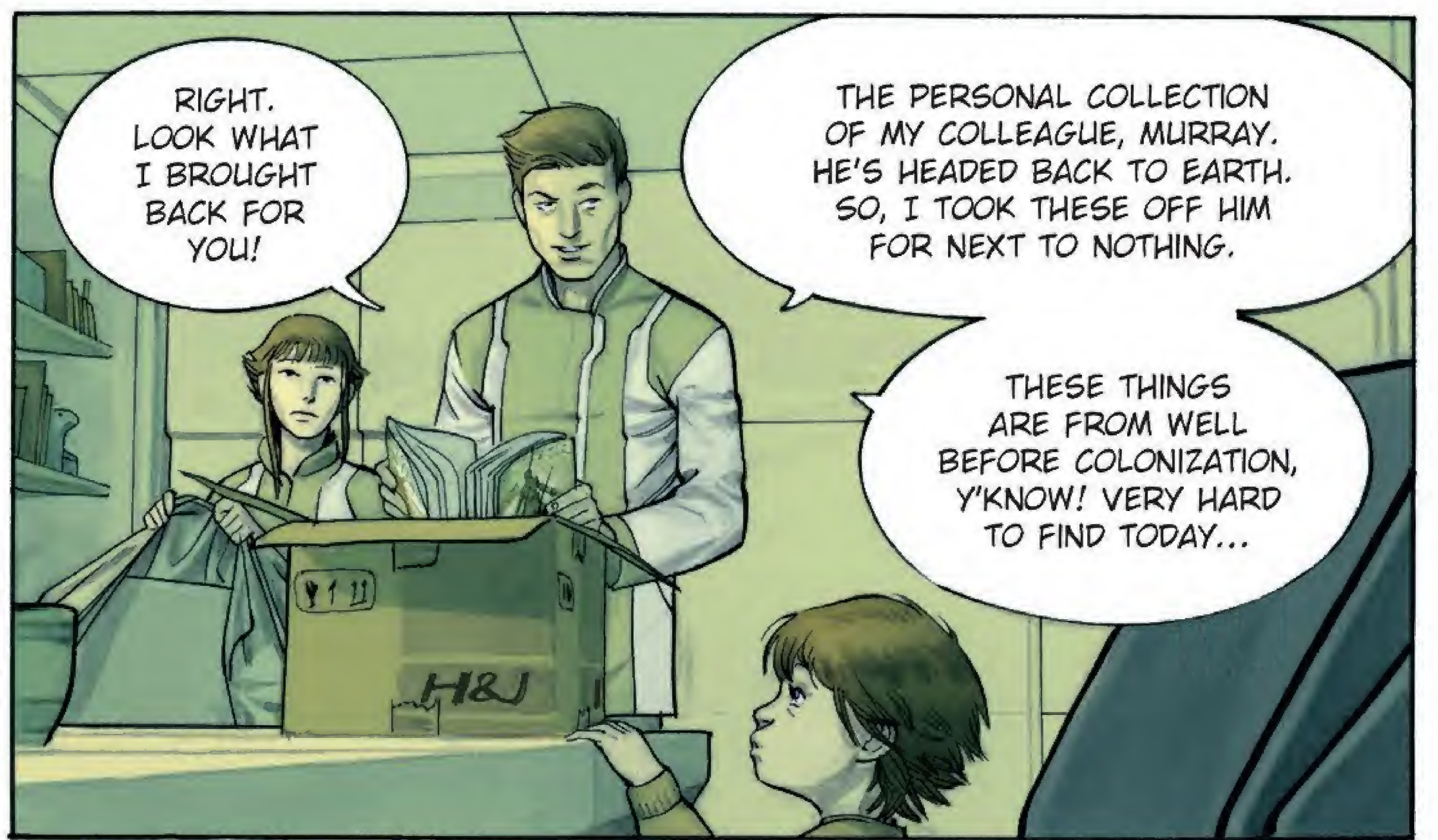
NO. I'MMA WAIT FOR HIM.

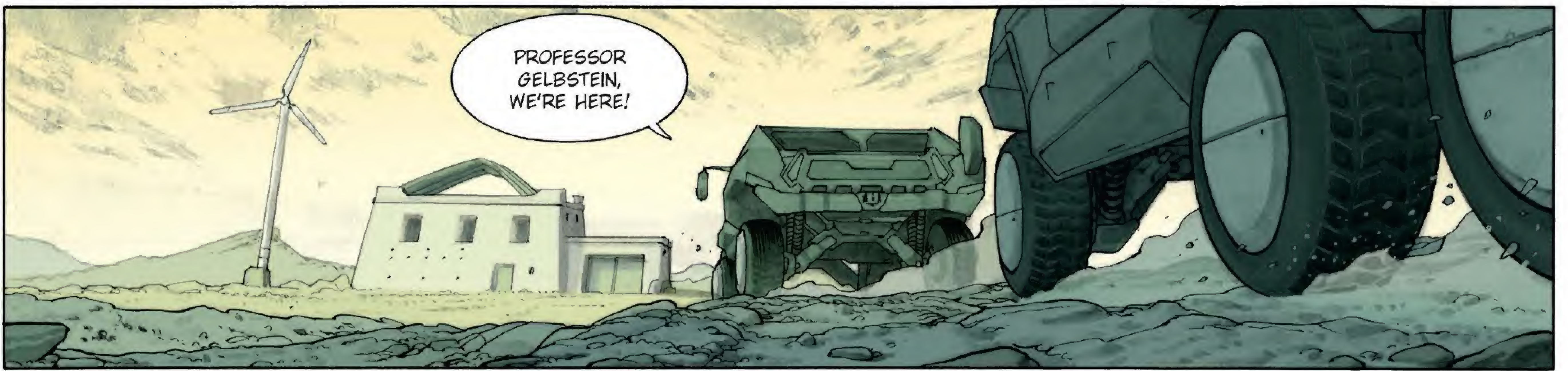


WHASSAT?

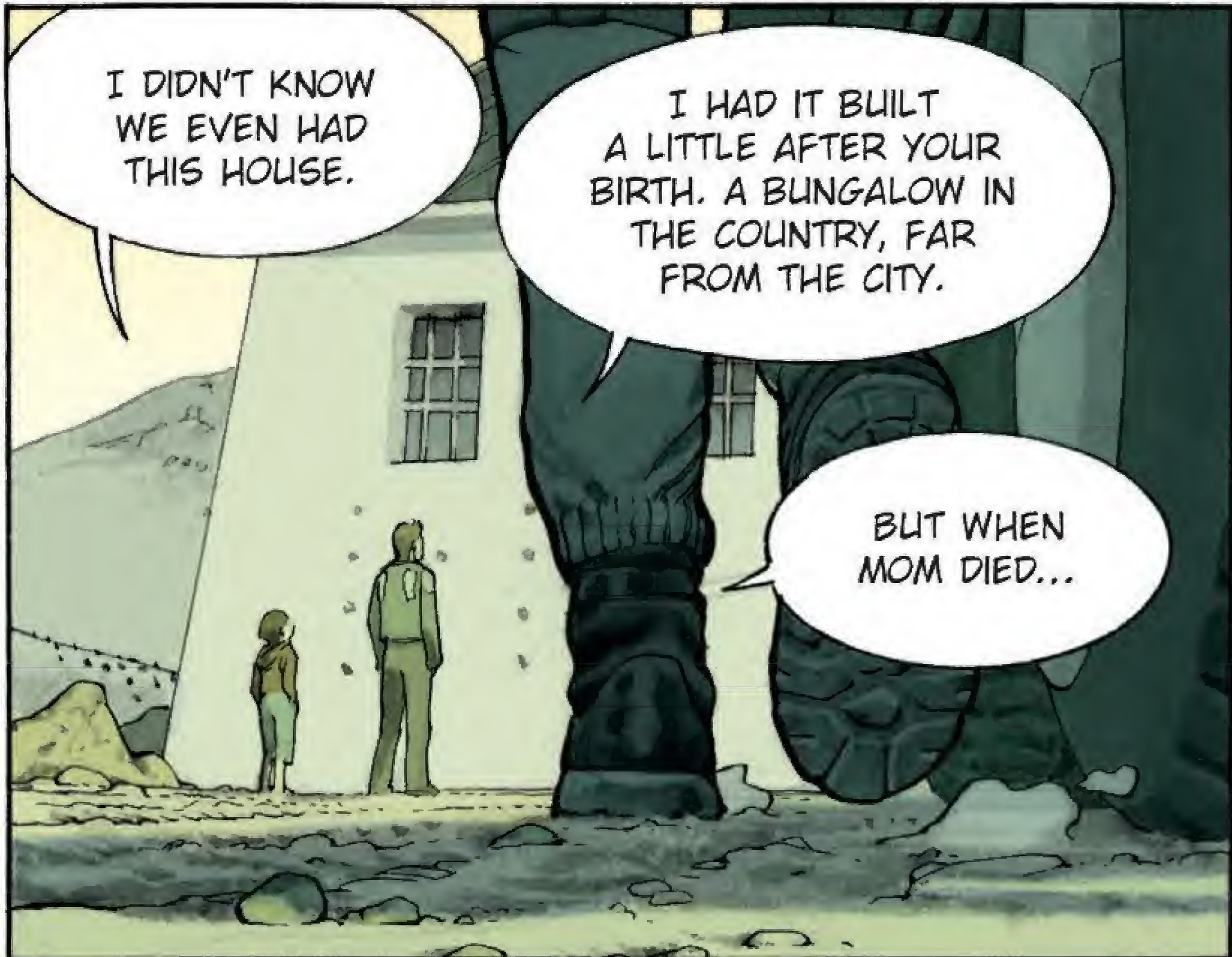


SURPRISE!





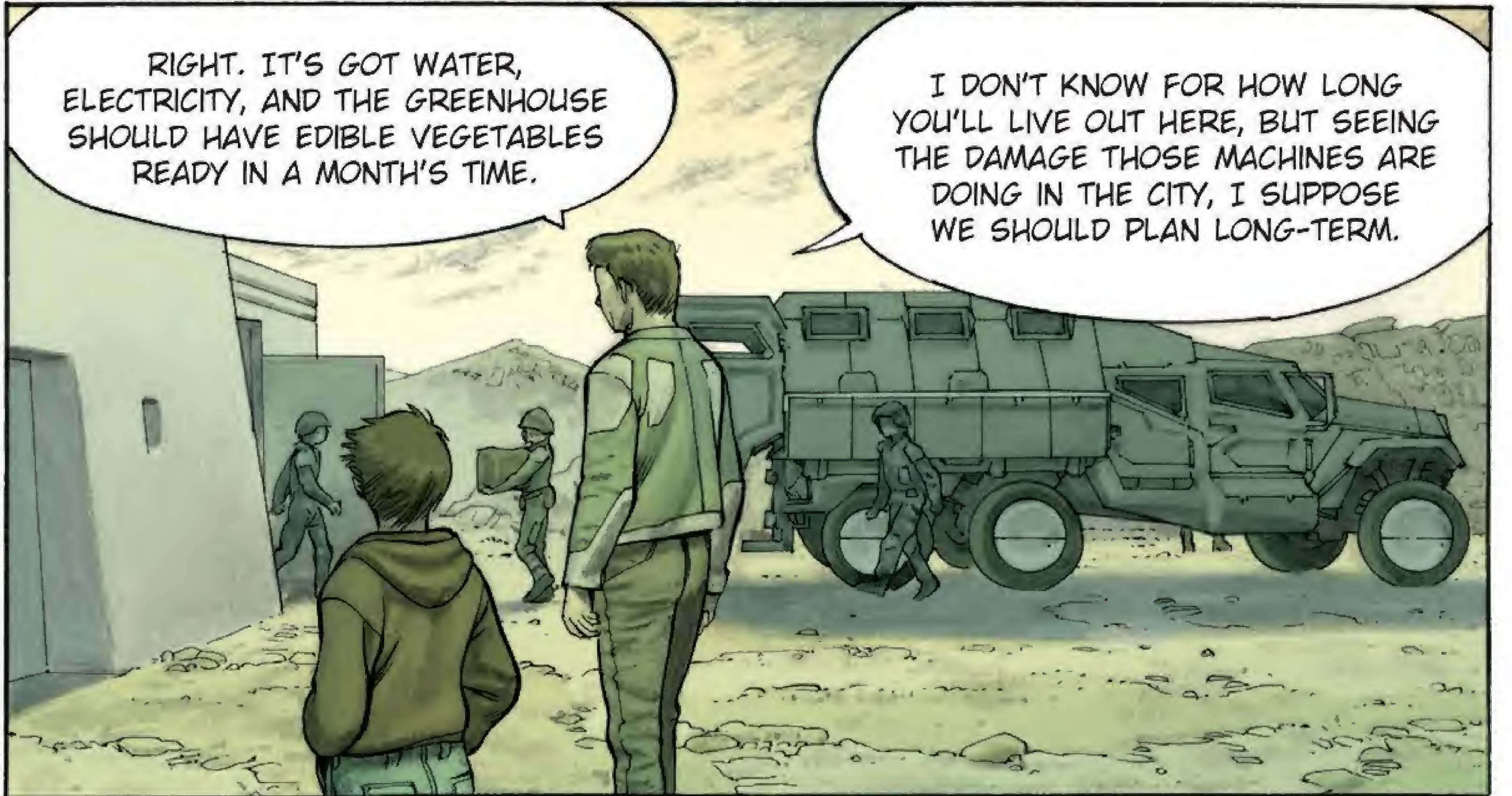
PROFESSOR
GELBSTEIN,
WE'RE HERE!



I DIDN'T KNOW
WE EVEN HAD
THIS HOUSE.

I HAD IT BUILT
A LITTLE AFTER YOUR
BIRTH. A BUNGALOW IN
THE COUNTRY, FAR
FROM THE CITY.

BUT WHEN
MOM DIED...

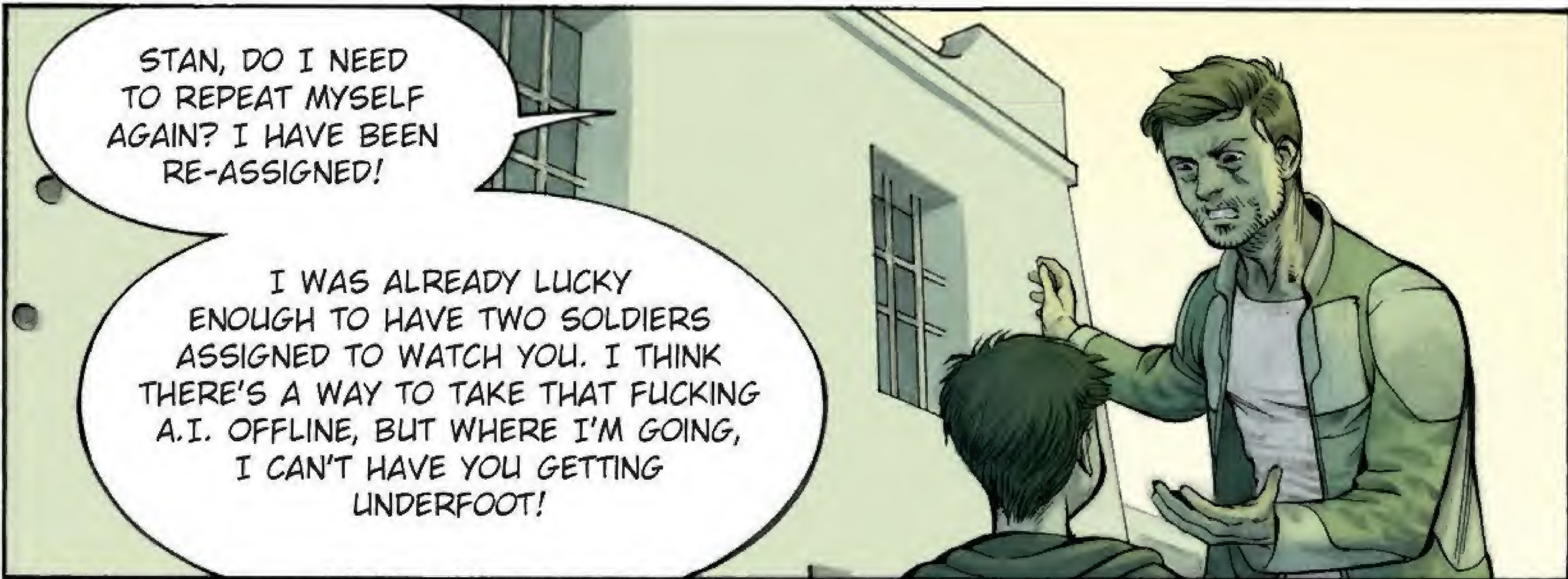


RIGHT. IT'S GOT WATER,
ELECTRICITY, AND THE GREENHOUSE
SHOULD HAVE EDIBLE VEGETABLES
READY IN A MONTH'S TIME.

I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG
YOU'LL LIVE OUT HERE, BUT SEEING
THE DAMAGE THOSE MACHINES ARE
DOING IN THE CITY, I SUPPOSE
WE SHOULD PLAN LONG-TERM.



I CAN'T GO
WITH YOU?



STAN, DO I NEED
TO REPEAT MYSELF
AGAIN? I HAVE BEEN
RE-ASSIGNED!

I WAS ALREADY LUCKY
ENOUGH TO HAVE TWO SOLDIERS
ASSIGNED TO WATCH YOU. I THINK
THERE'S A WAY TO TAKE THAT FUCKING
A.I. OFFLINE, BUT WHERE I'M GOING,
I CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING
UNDERFOOT!



KIDS!
WHO'D HAVE
'EM, EH?



HEY! ARE YOU
STANLEY?



STAN'S GOOD.
AND
YOU ARE....
PERRY?

YEP. YOUR
NEW NANNY.

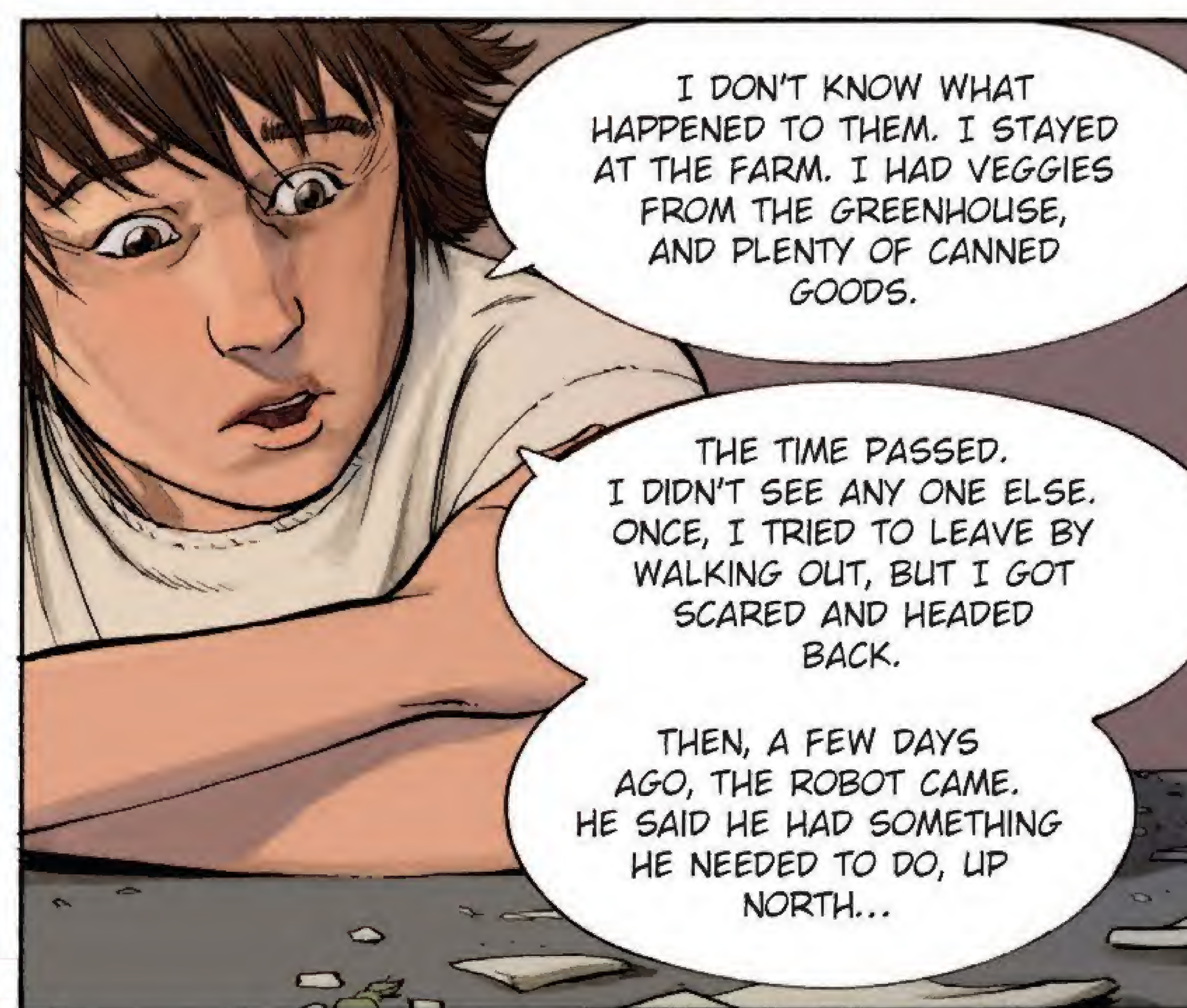
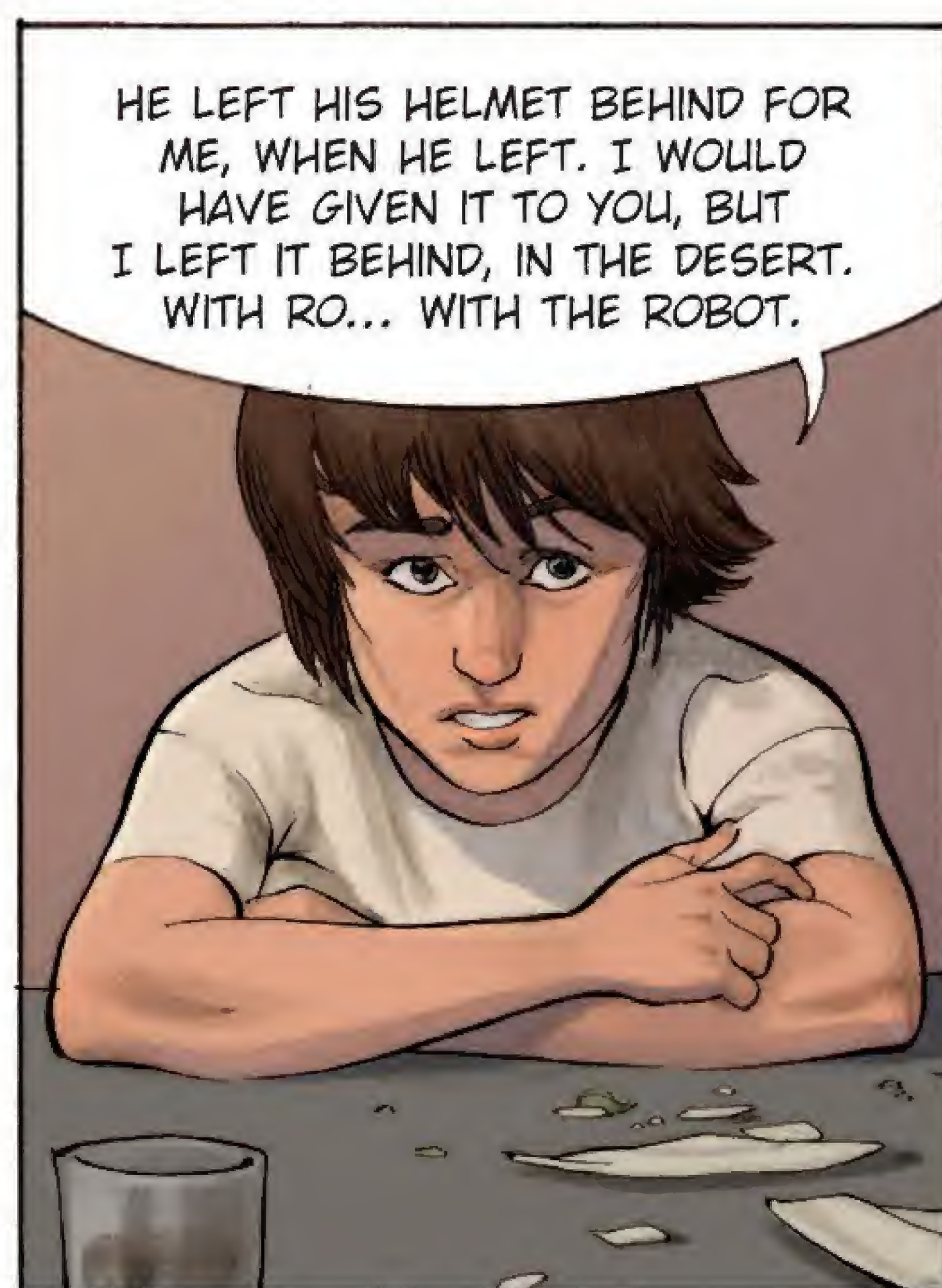
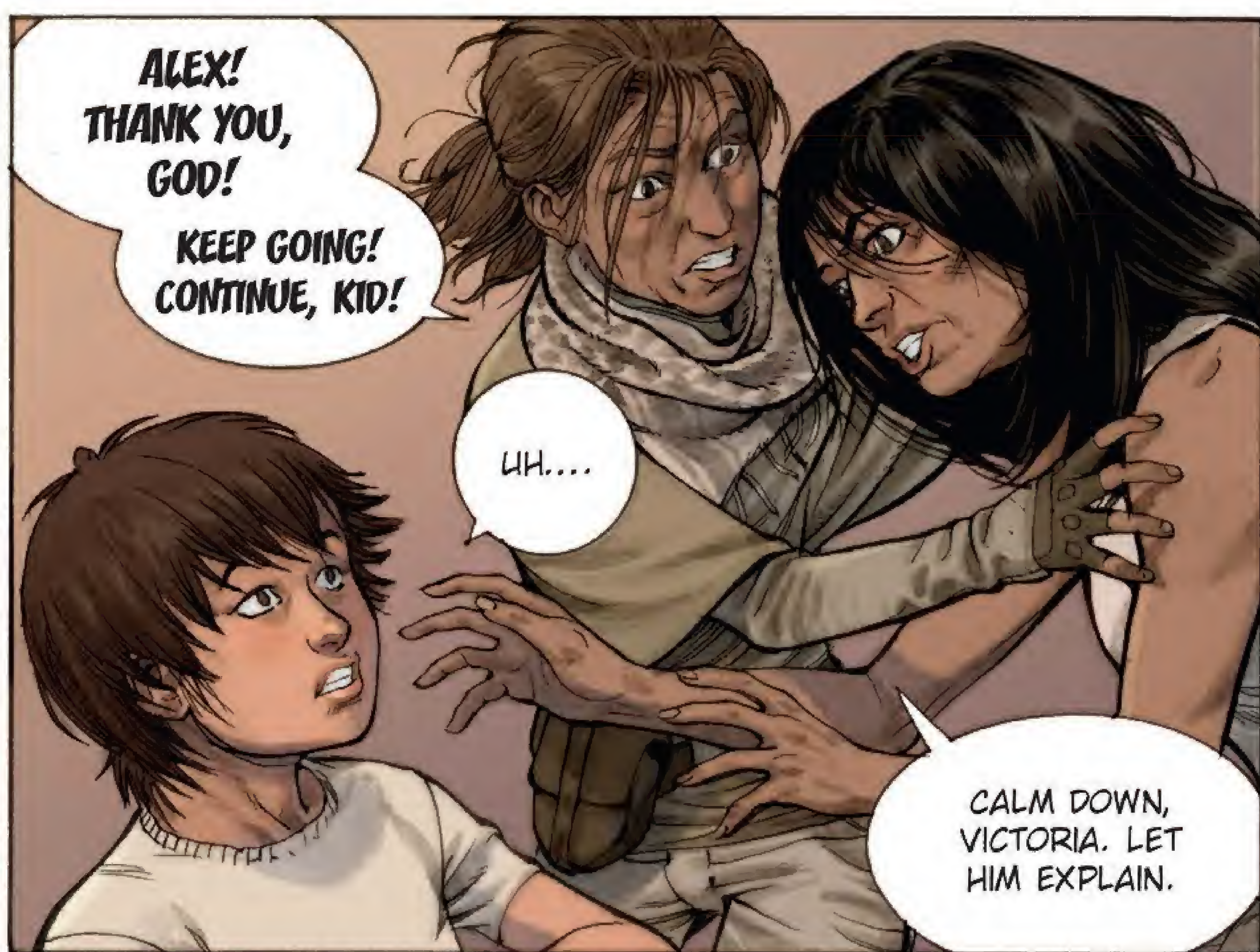
WELL, WITH
CORPORAL
HENDRICKS, BUT
HE DOESN'T SEEM
TO BE TOO BIG A
FAN OF KIDS.



ANYWAY,
YOU CAN CALL
ME ALEX.



CRASH!





... WHILE WE WAIT, I THINK IT'S OUR TURN TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

I'M ANNA SHERMAN, BUT FOR A REASON THAT ESCAPES ME, EVERYONE CALLS ME MISS ANNA. I WORKED IN DEVELOPMENT AT THE GREENLAND AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX, A FEW MILES FROM HERE. TO THIS DAY, THAT'S WHERE WE GET A LOT OF OUR FOOD FROM.



SHERIFF AND ME FOUND WORK AT GREENLAND WHEN SHIT STARTED TO HIT THE FAN IN NEO-TOLEDO. WE KNOW THE DESERT PRETTY WELL. WE FOUND THIS HIDEOUT OURSELVES.



TODAY, WE'RE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY. HAIVÉ'S GOT ROBOTS DOING PATROLS, BUT WE GOT GUNS WITH A PRETTY BIG KICK. WE CAN TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.



WELL, LUCKILY, THEY'VE NEVER COME HERE.

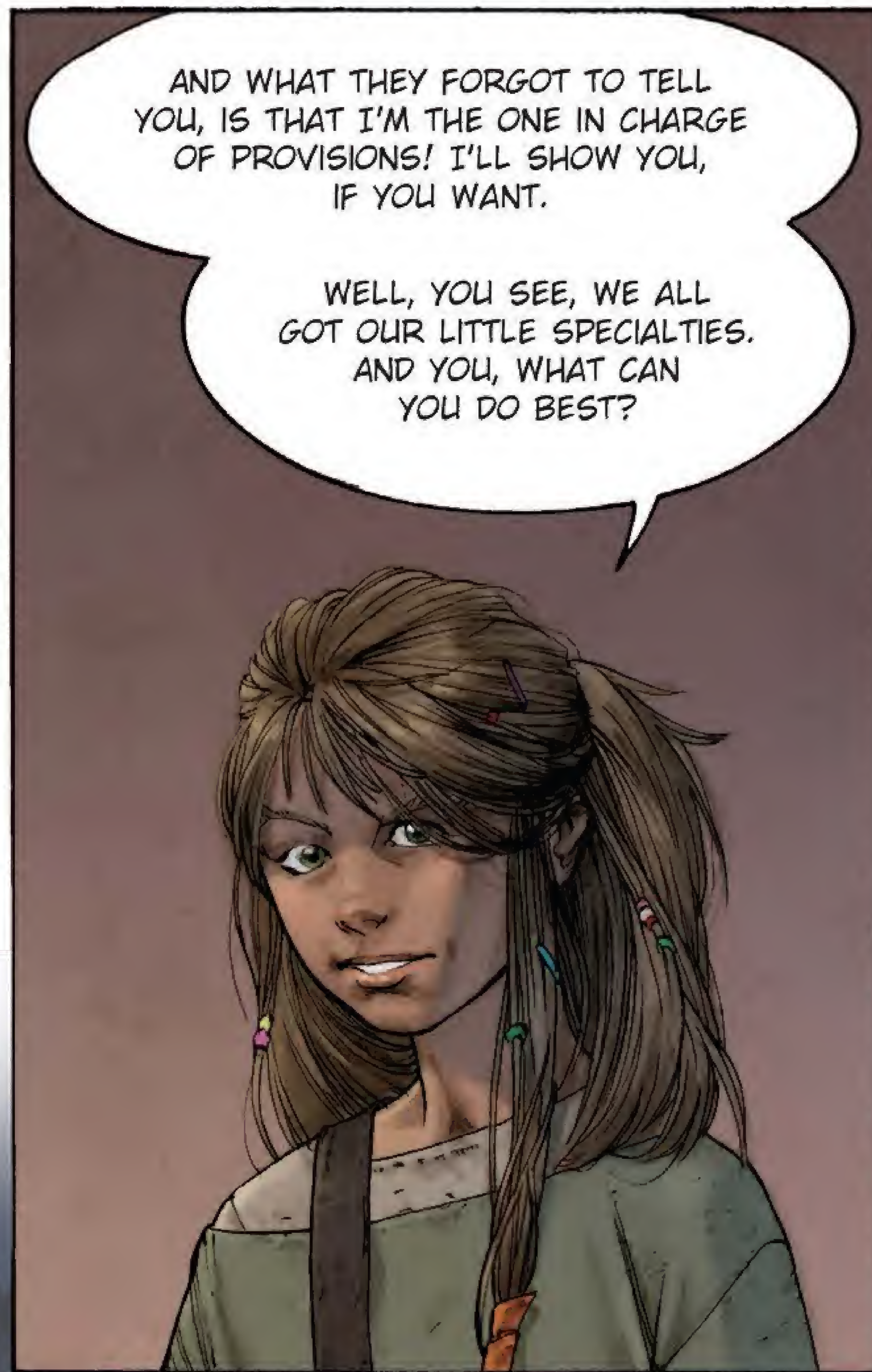
I'M WAGNER. I WORKED AT RELAY POINT 21, ON THE ROAD HEADED INTO TOWN. WHEN THE OTHERS PROPOSED TO SET UP CAMP HERE, I FOLLOWED THEM.

THIS HEAT, THOUGH... WHAT A PAIN!



I'M HARUKI MORI, AND THIS IS HELENA AND OUR DAUGHTER AYAKA. I WAS A DOCTOR IN NEO-TOLEDO.

WE NARROWLY SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING. MANY OTHERS DID NOT HAVE SUCH LUCK...



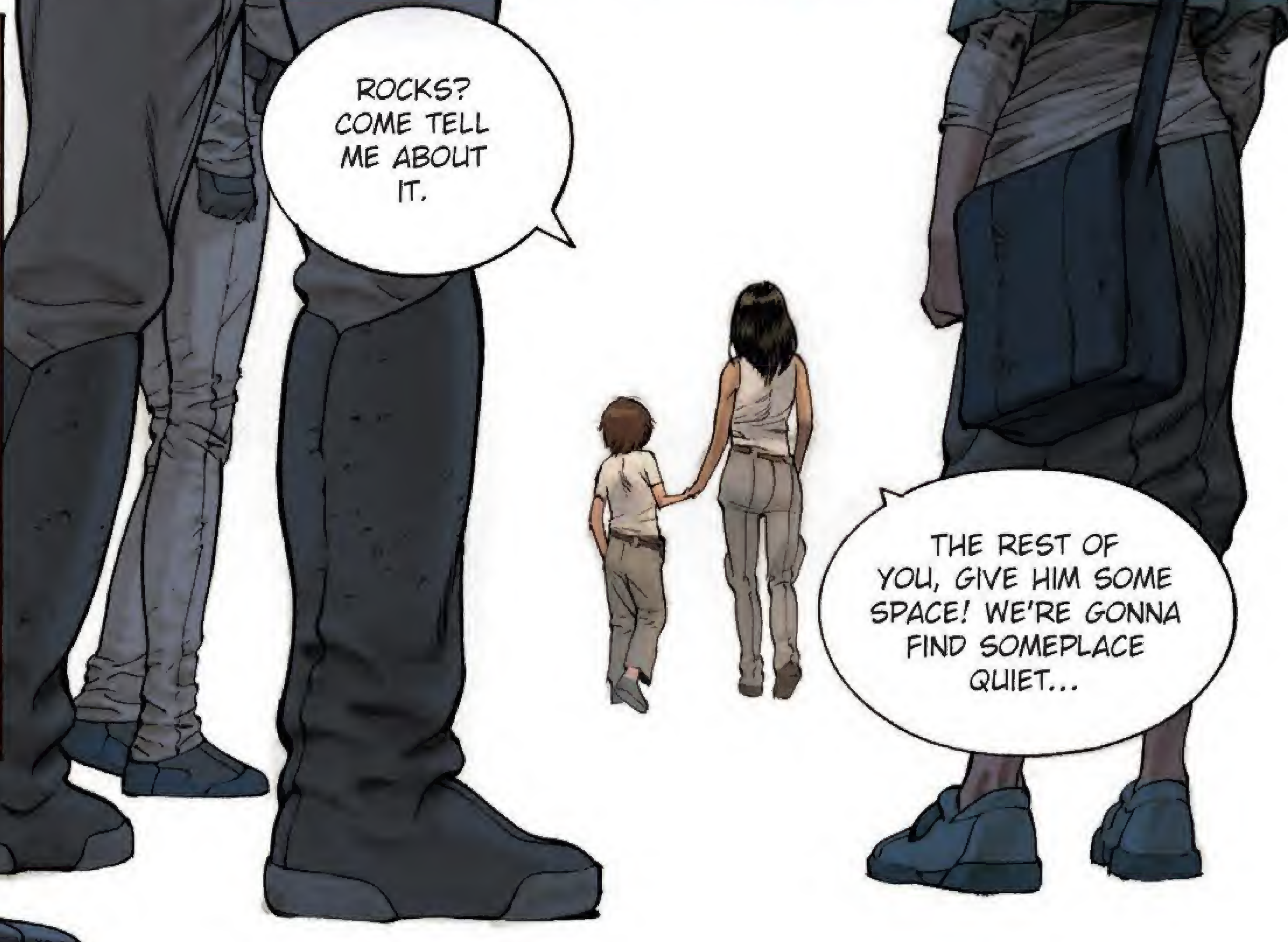
AND WHAT THEY FORGOT TO TELL YOU, IS THAT I'M THE ONE IN CHARGE OF PROVISIONS! I'LL SHOW YOU, IF YOU WANT.

WELL, YOU SEE, WE ALL GOT OUR LITTLE SPECIALTIES. AND YOU, WHAT CAN YOU DO BEST?



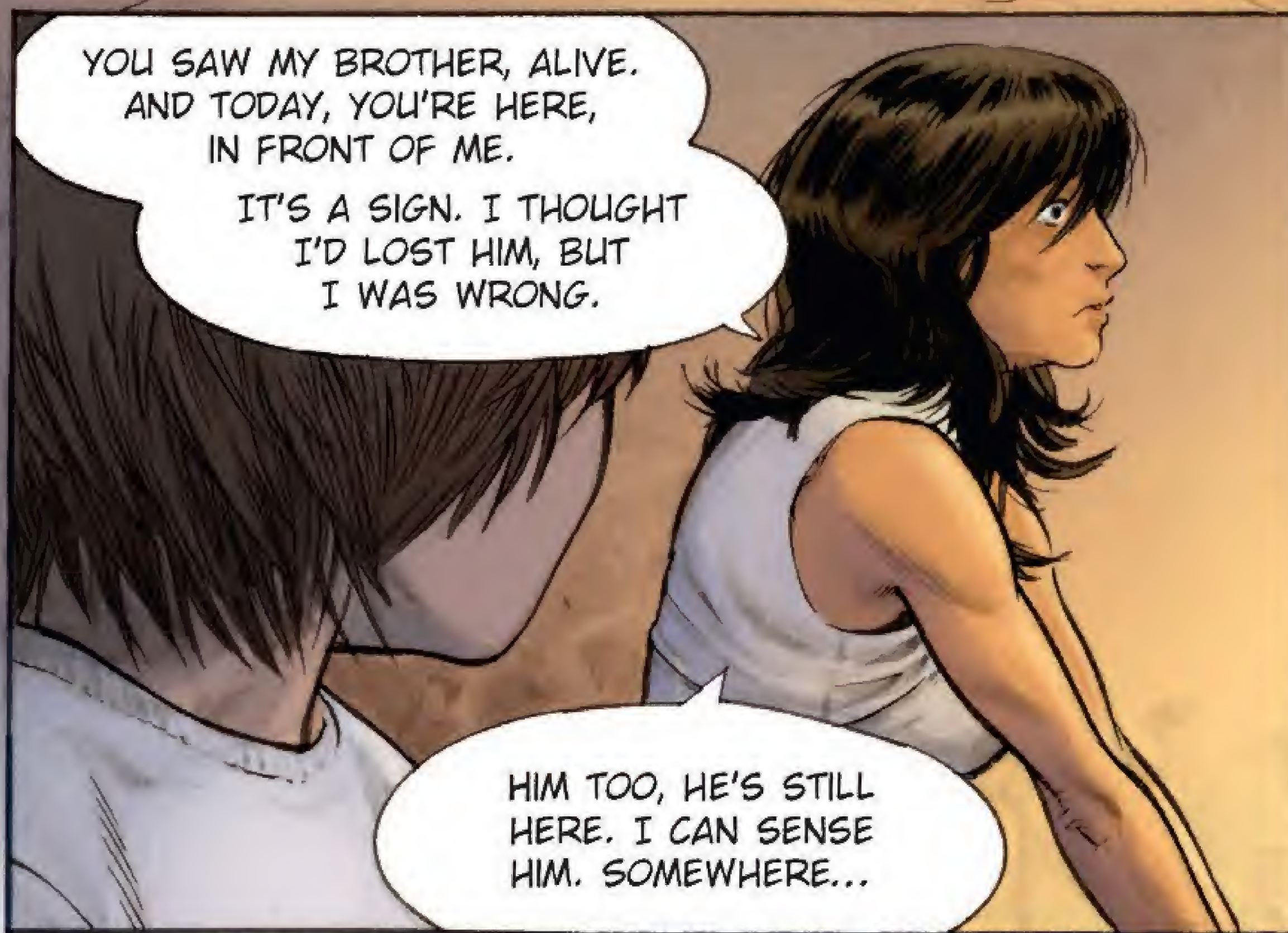
UH... I KNOW HOW TO WELD...

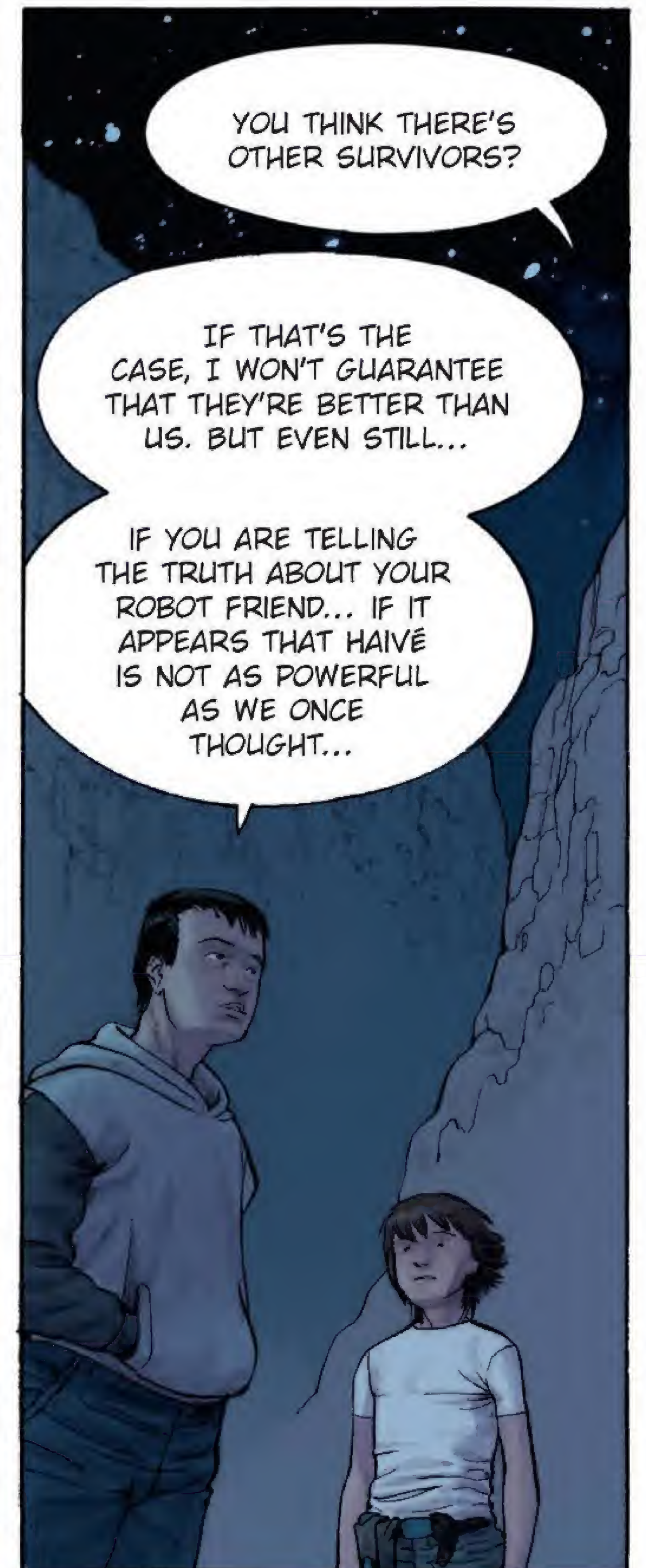
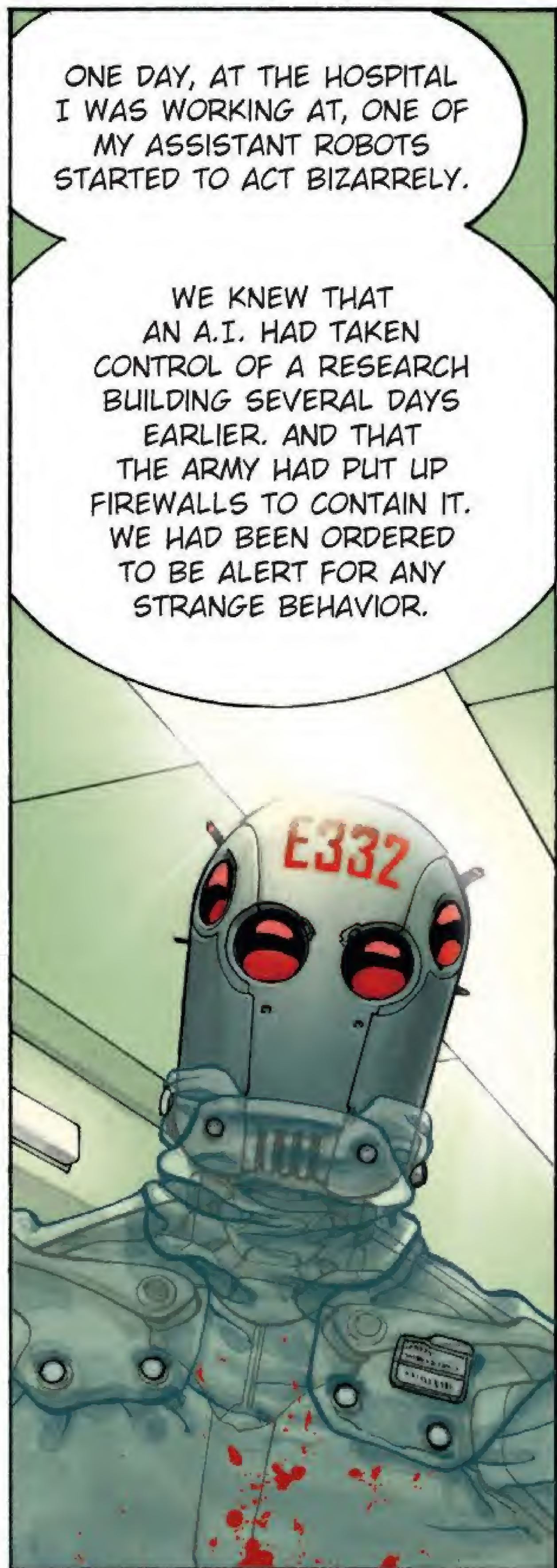
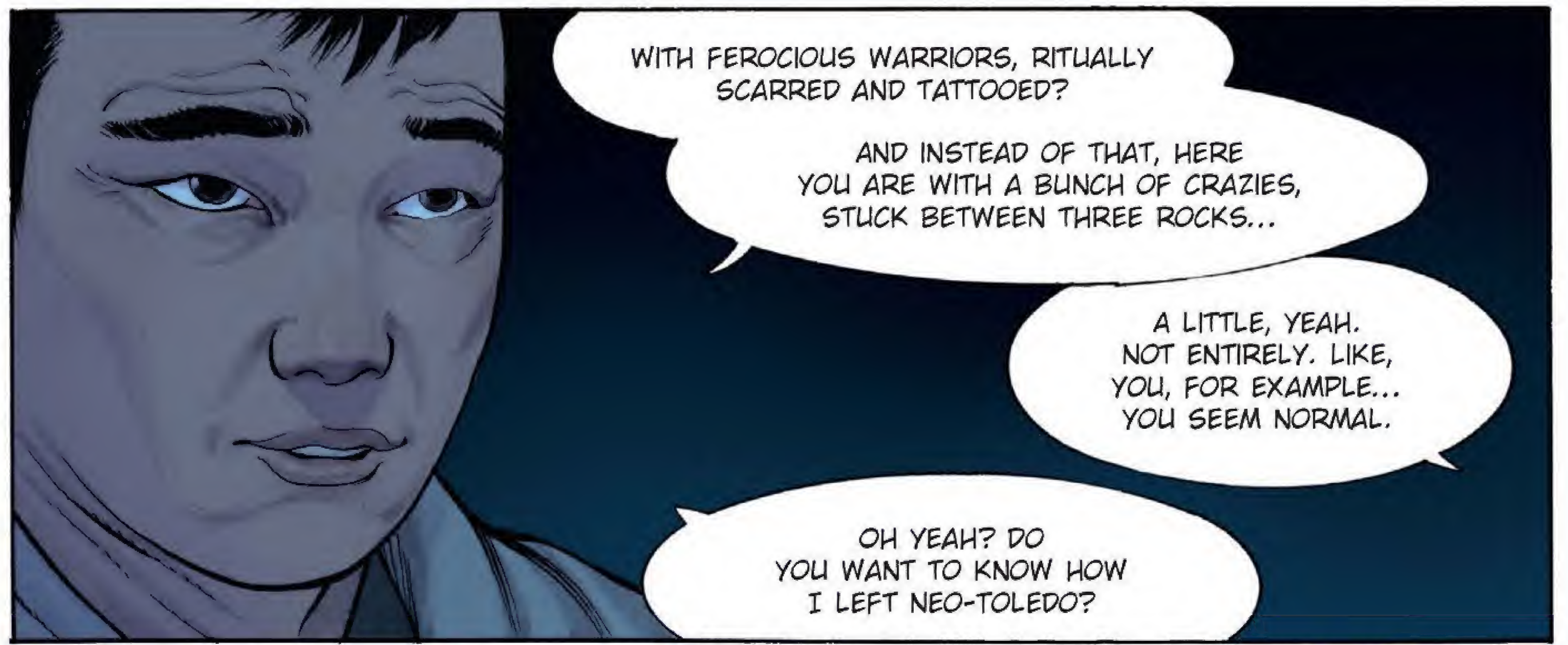
AND I KNOW HOW TO CARVE ROCKS.

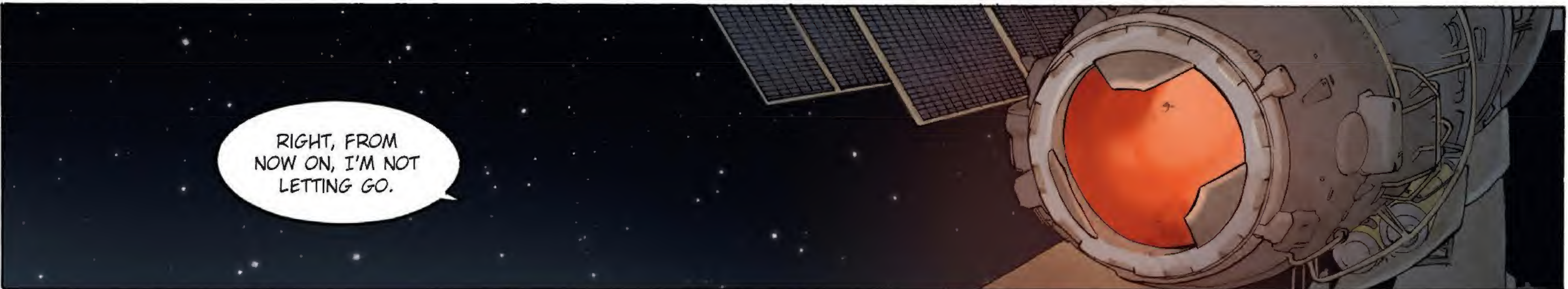
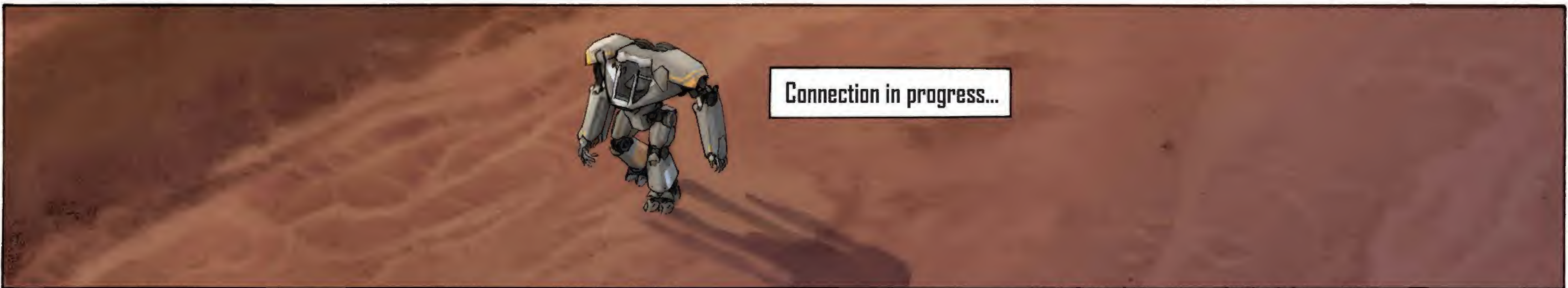


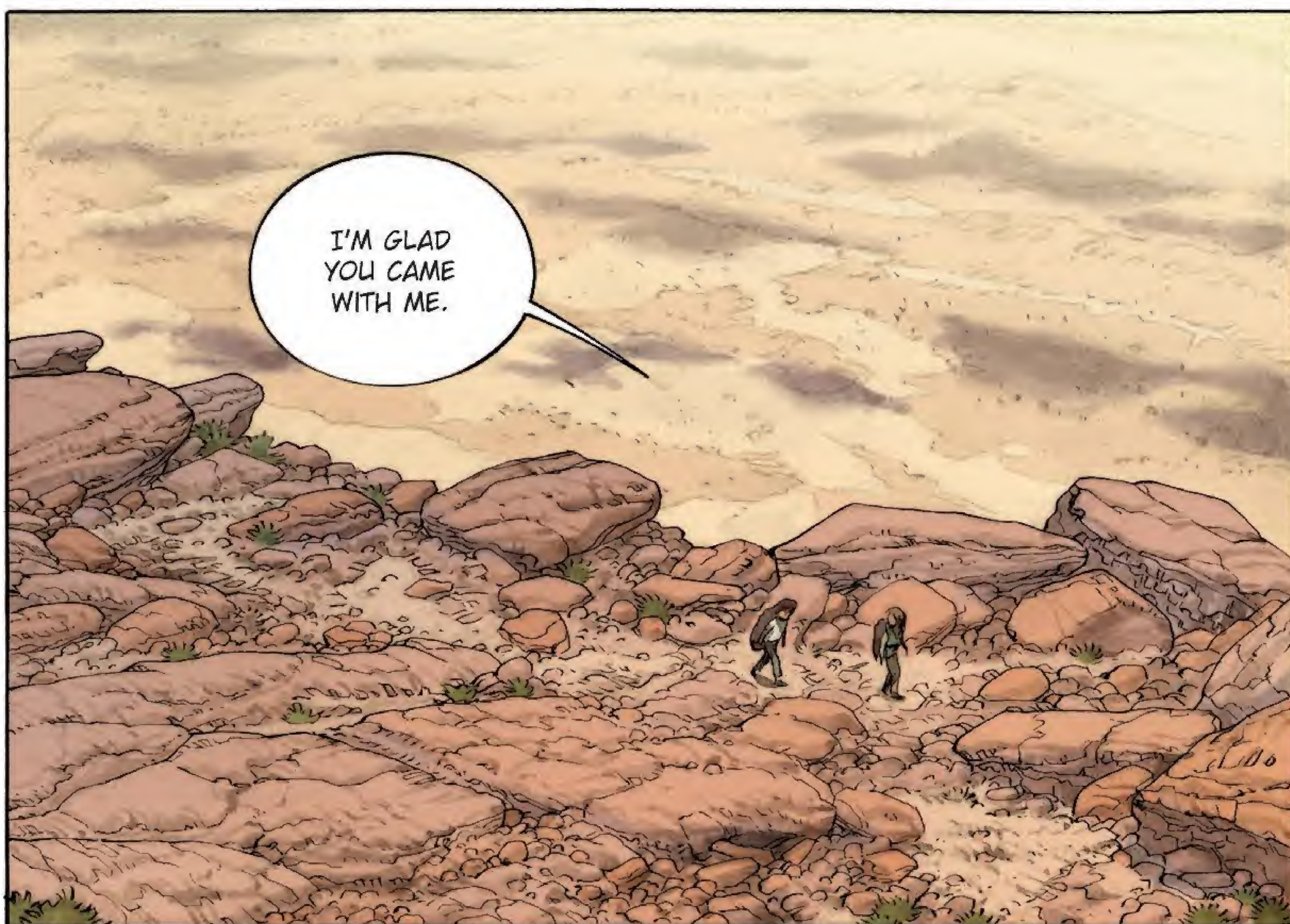
ROCKS? COME TELL ME ABOUT IT.

THE REST OF YOU, GIVE HIM SOME SPACE! WE'RE GONNA FIND SOMEPLACE QUIET...







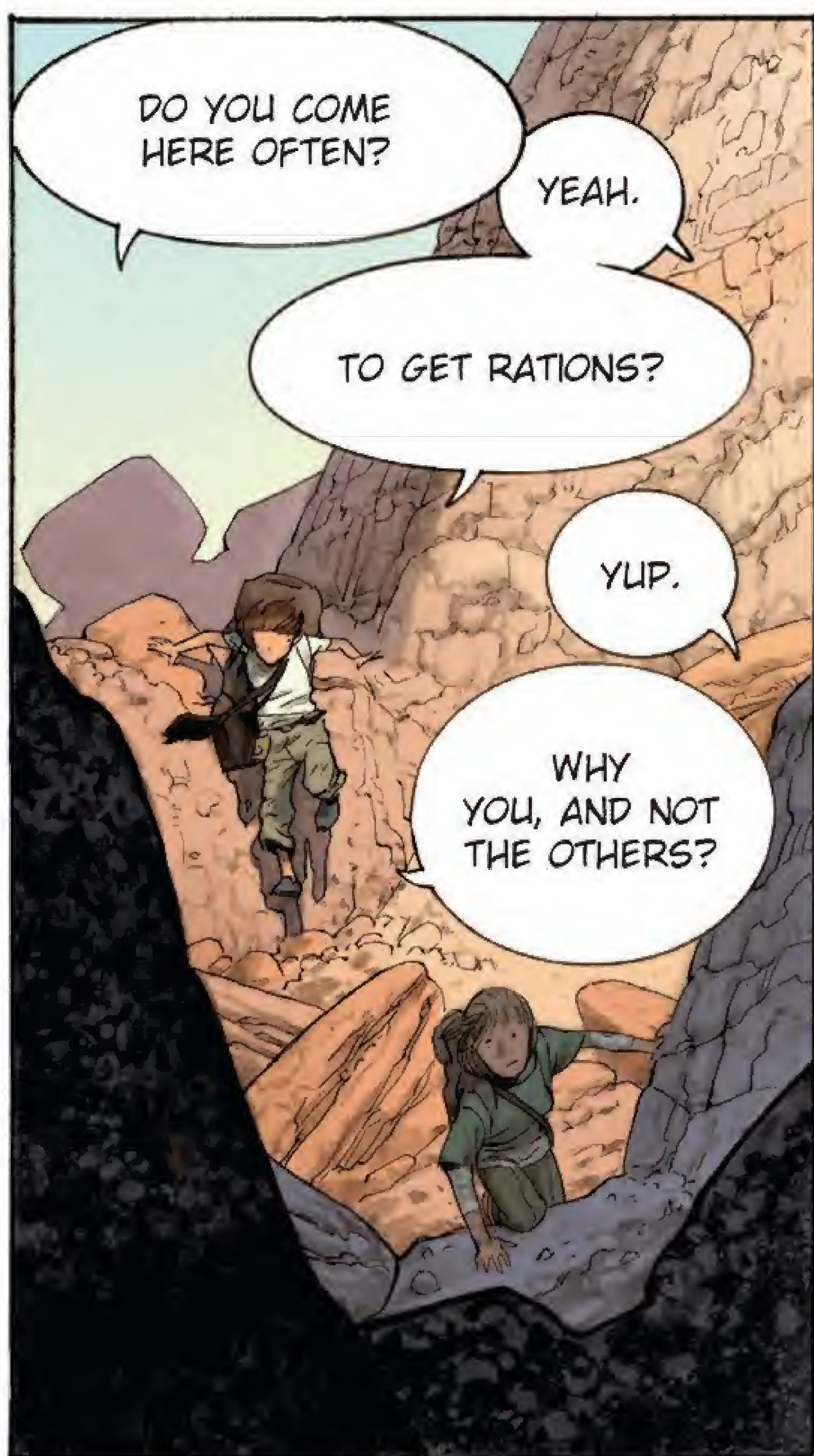


I'M GLAD YOU CAME WITH ME.



YOU SURE WE DON'T NEED TO BE WEARING THE CLOAK?

LATER. IT'LL SLOW US DOWN. AND I NEVER SAW A ROBOT AROUND HERE, ANYWAY.



DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

YEAH.

TO GET RATIONS?

YUP.

WHY YOU, AND NOT THE OTHERS?



BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO SCARED.

AND IT'S MY CLOAK.



DO YOU NOT HAVE ANY PARENTS? SIBLINGS?

MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS LITTLE. A CAR ACCIDENT. I WENT TO FOSTER CARE.

THEN, WHEN I WAS TWELVE, THEY ASKED IF I WANTED TO DO A TRAINING COURSE IN THE COUNTRY, AT A PLACE CALLED GREENLAND. I SAID YES.



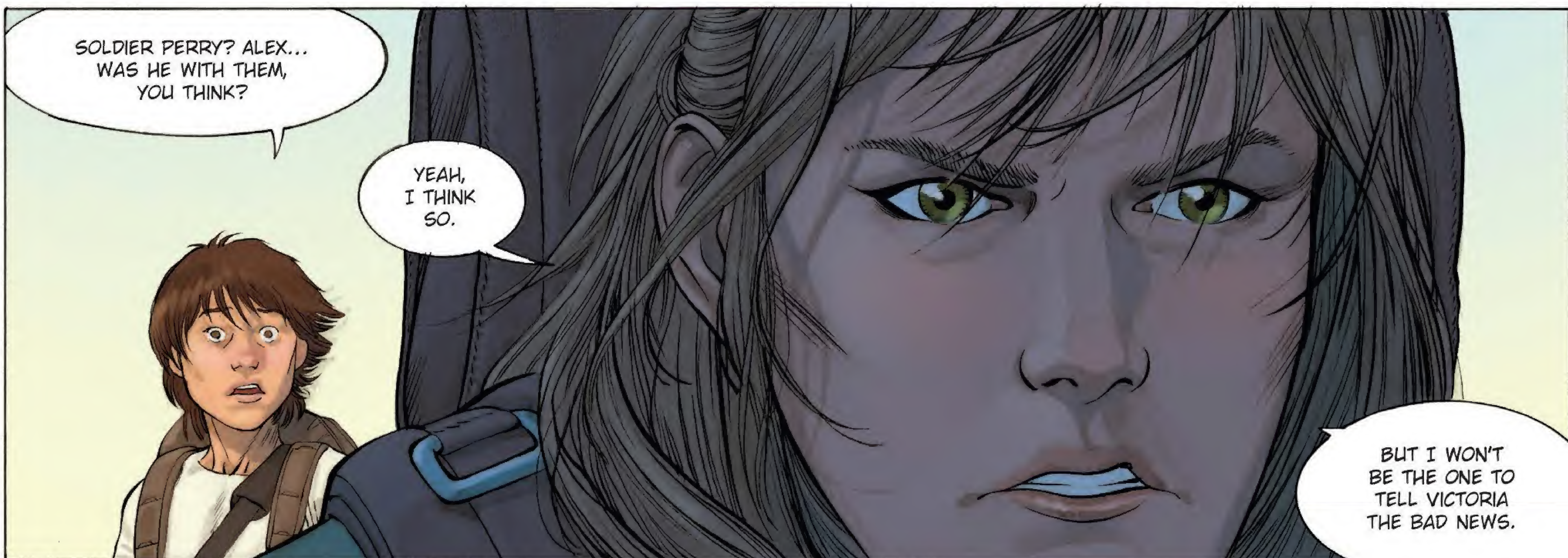
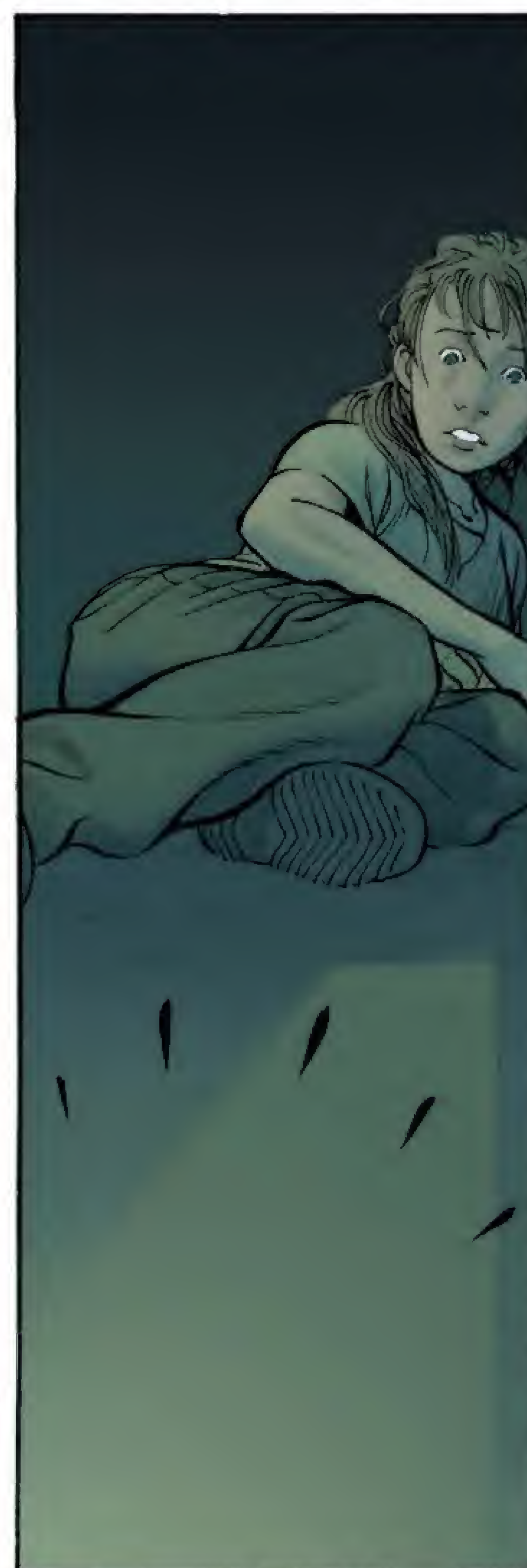
ONE DAY, WE LEARNED THAT THERE WAS WEIRD STUFF HAPPENING IN THE CITY, AND AFTER THAT, NO MORE NEWS. WE STARTED TO FLIP OUT. SOME GIRL WENT APESHIT ON ME OVER NEXT TO NOTHING...

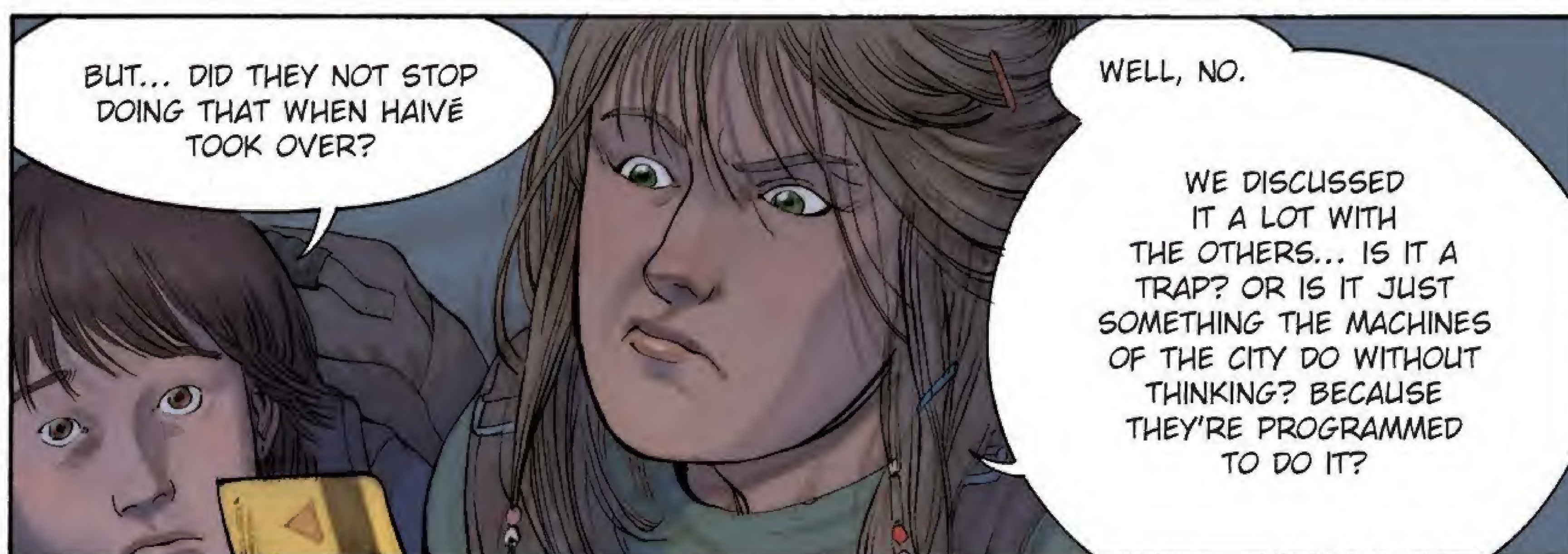
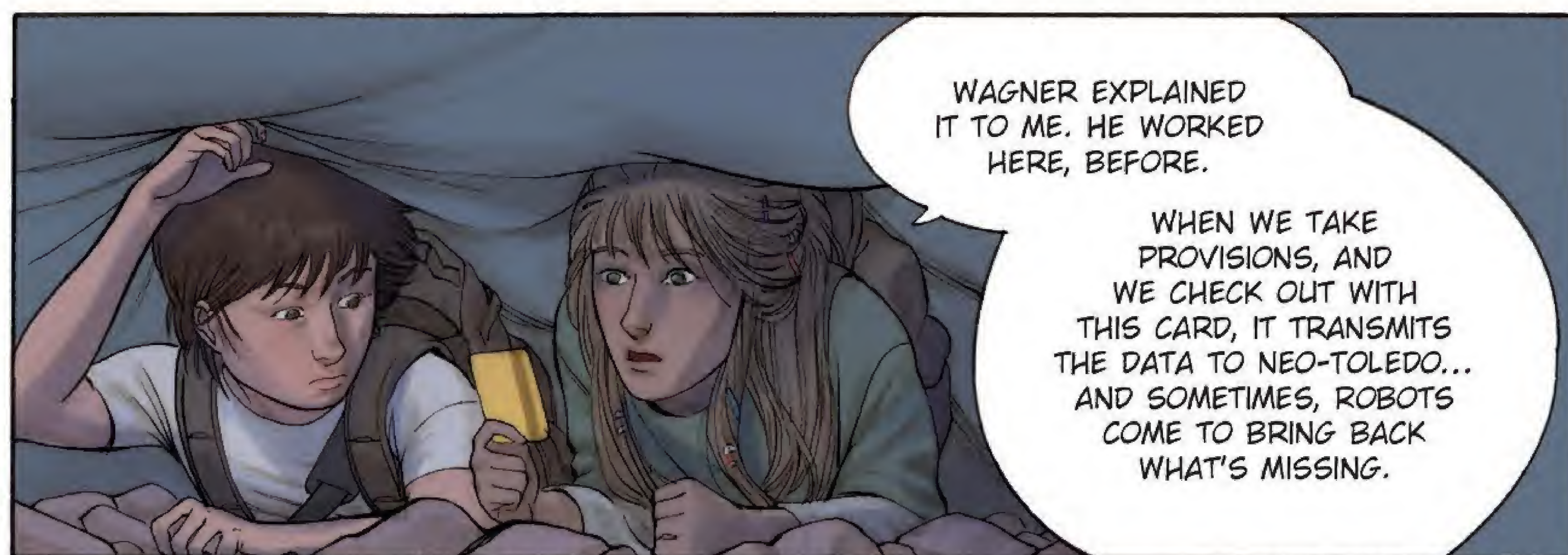
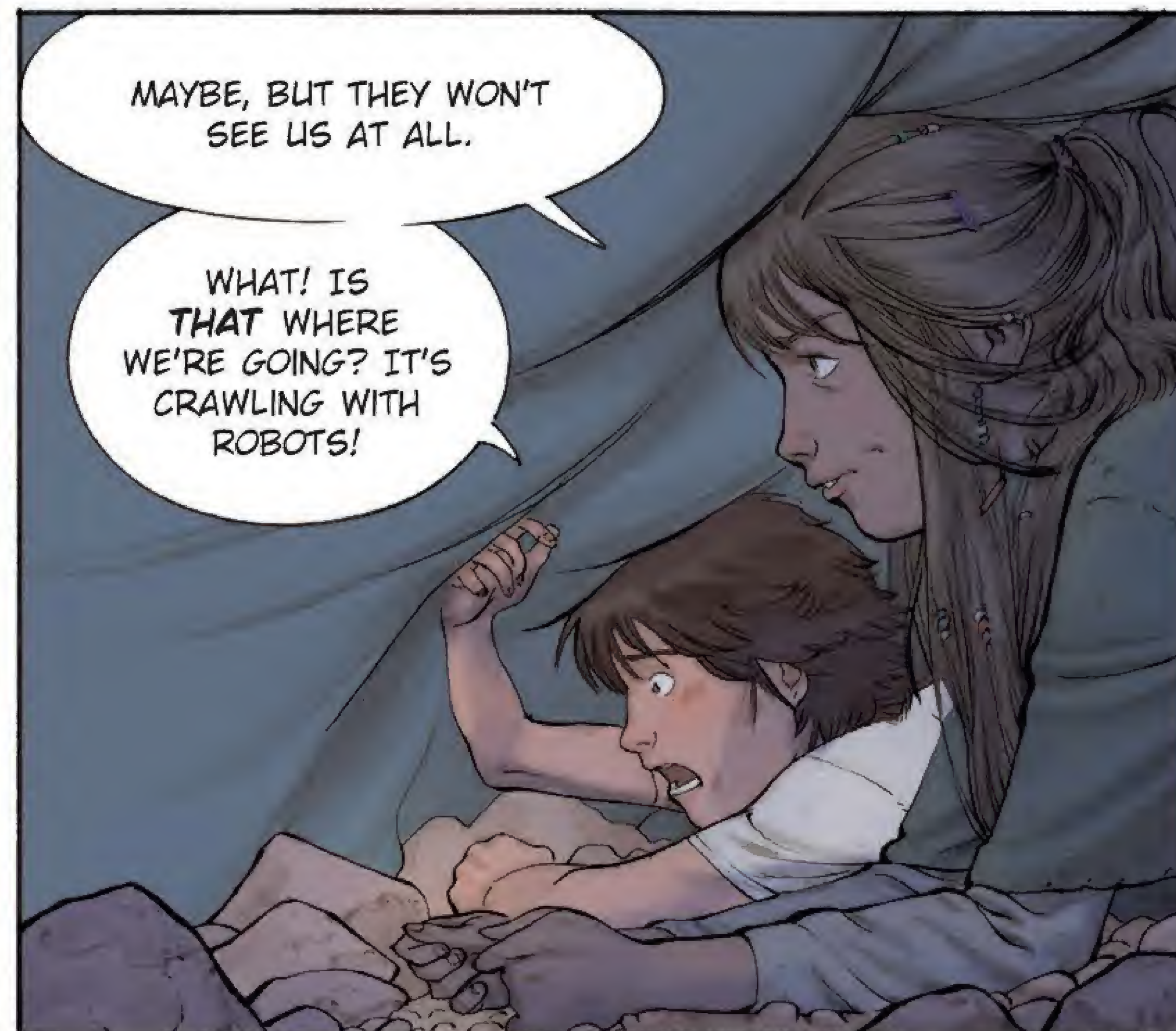
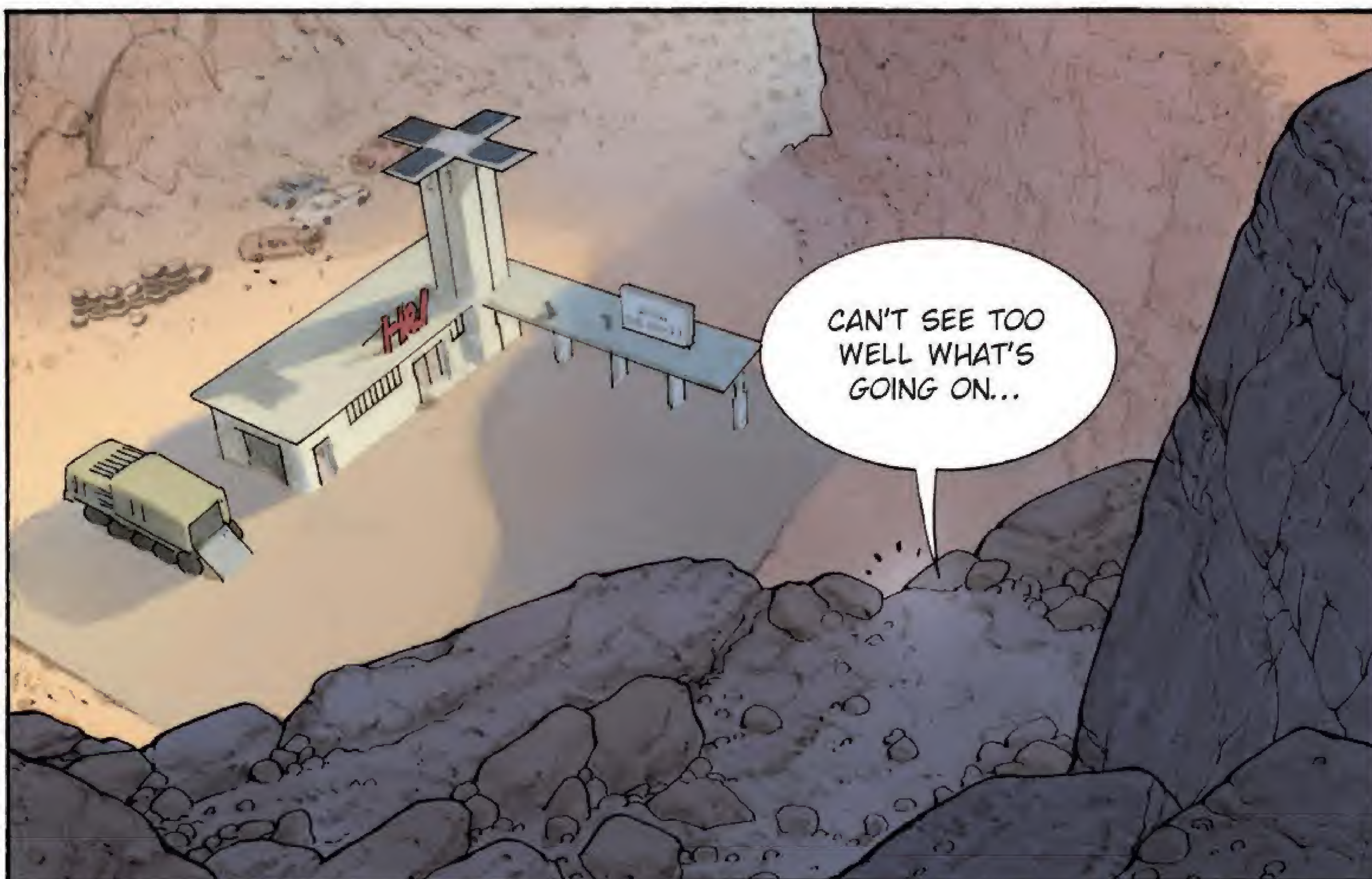


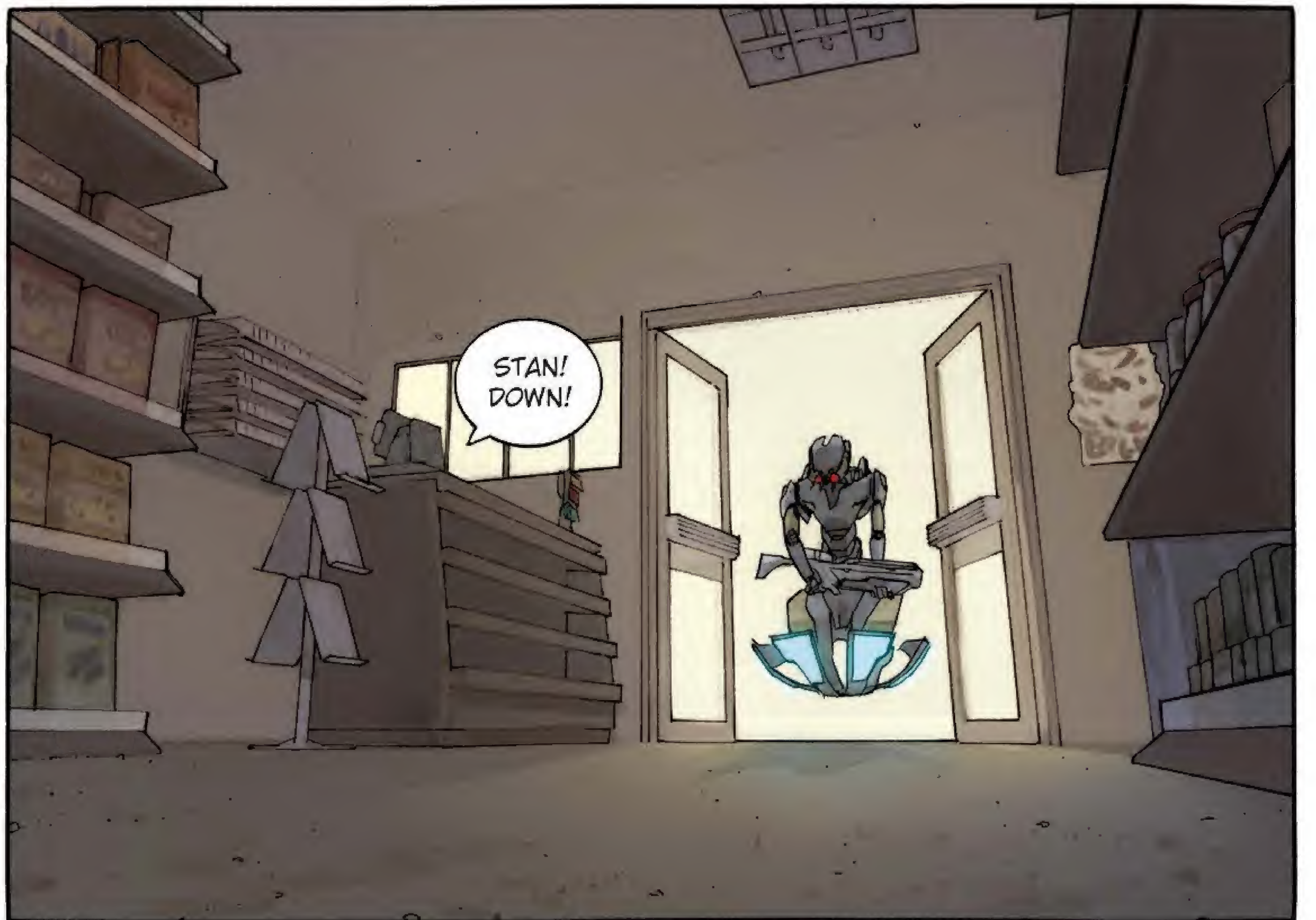
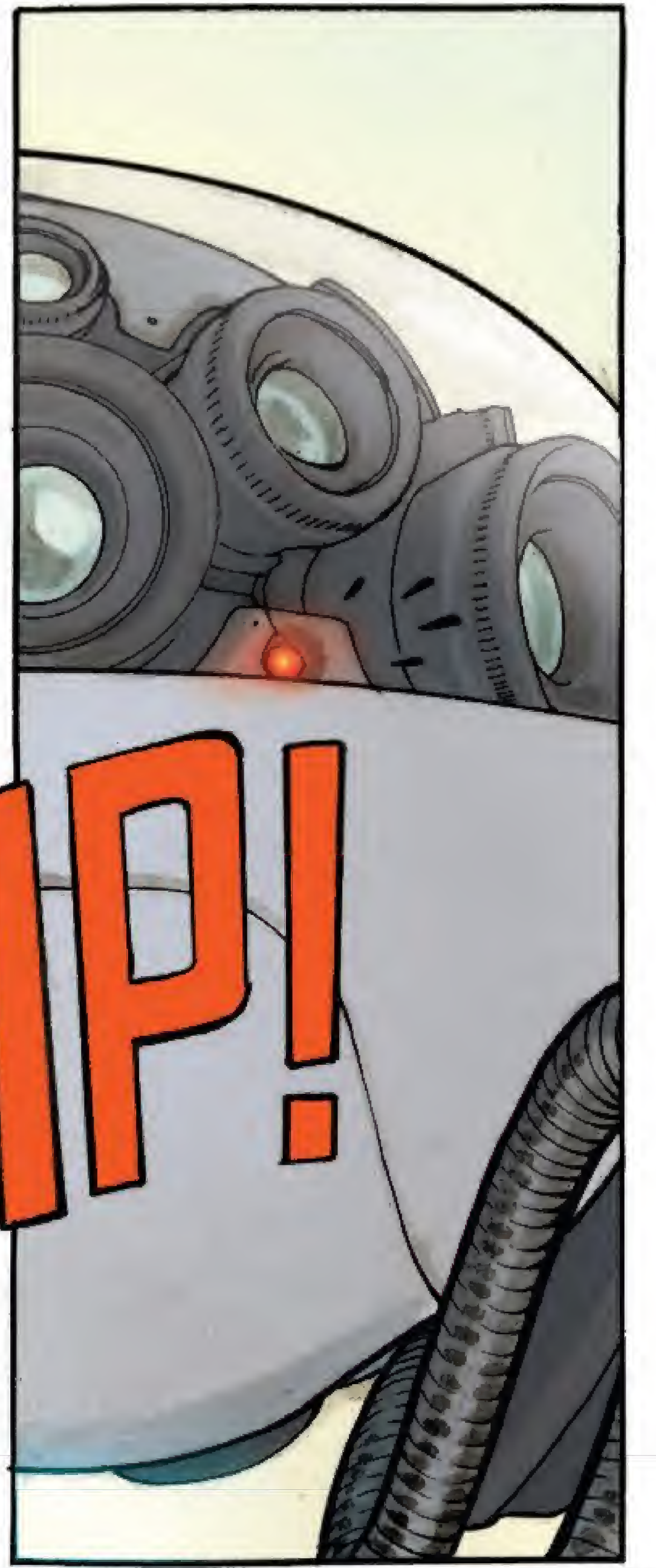
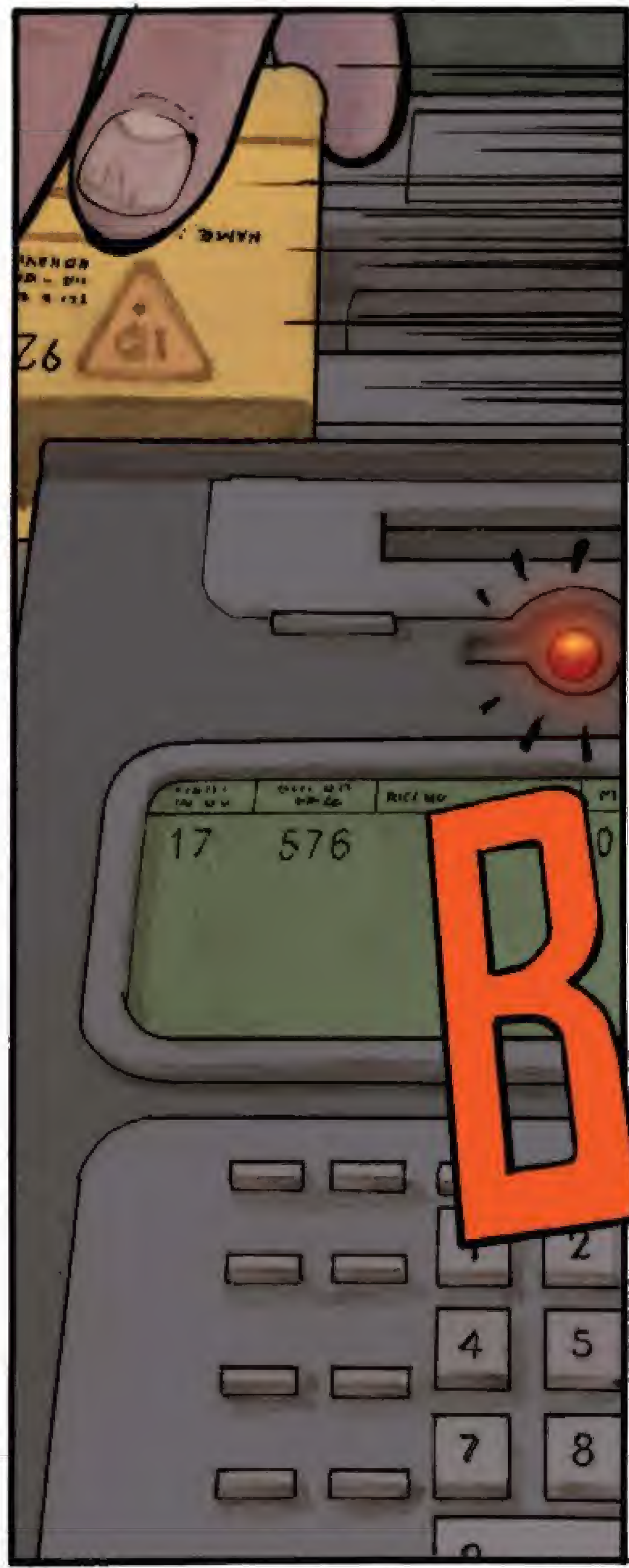
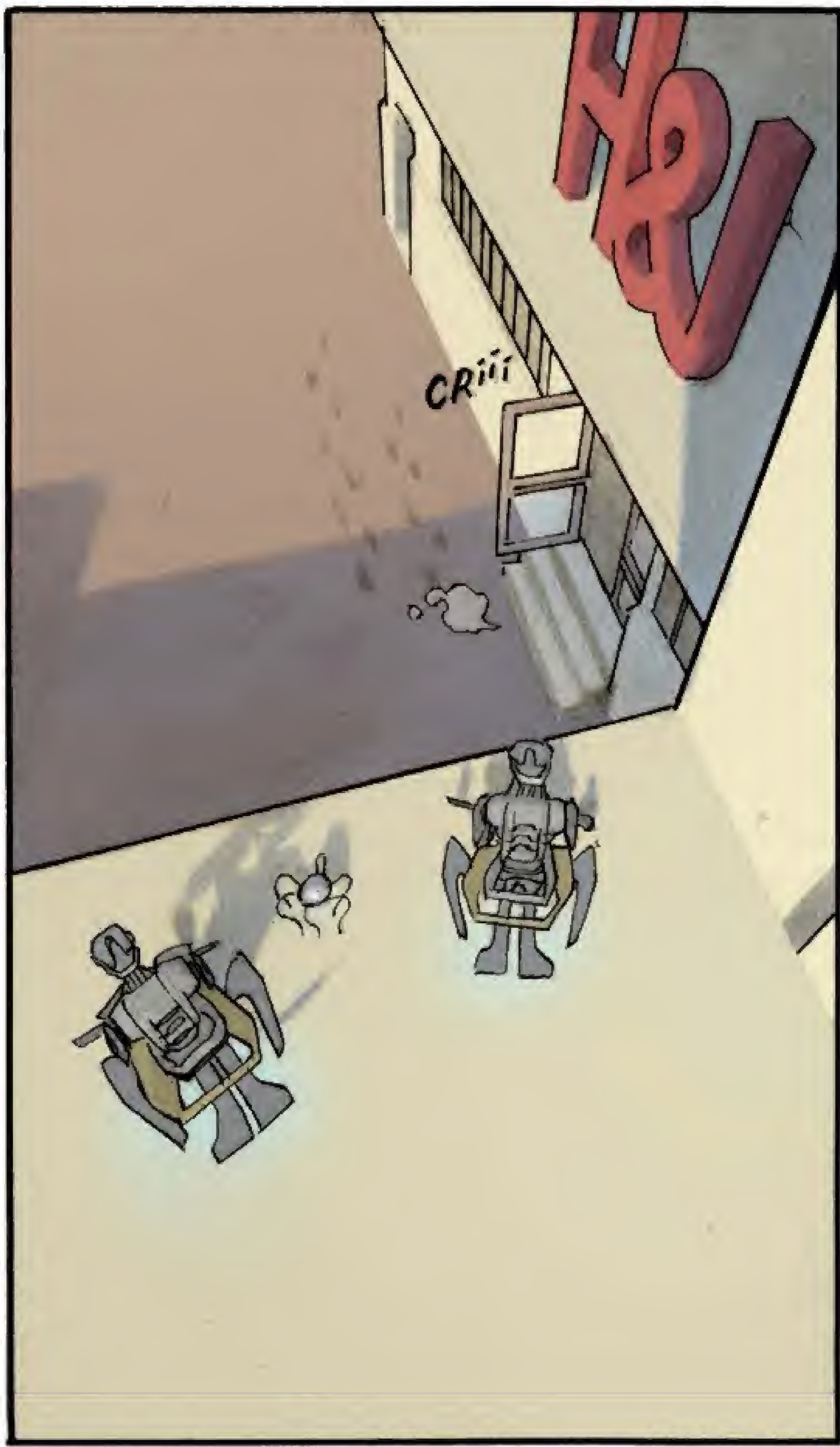
I'D HAD ENOUGH. I DECIDED TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

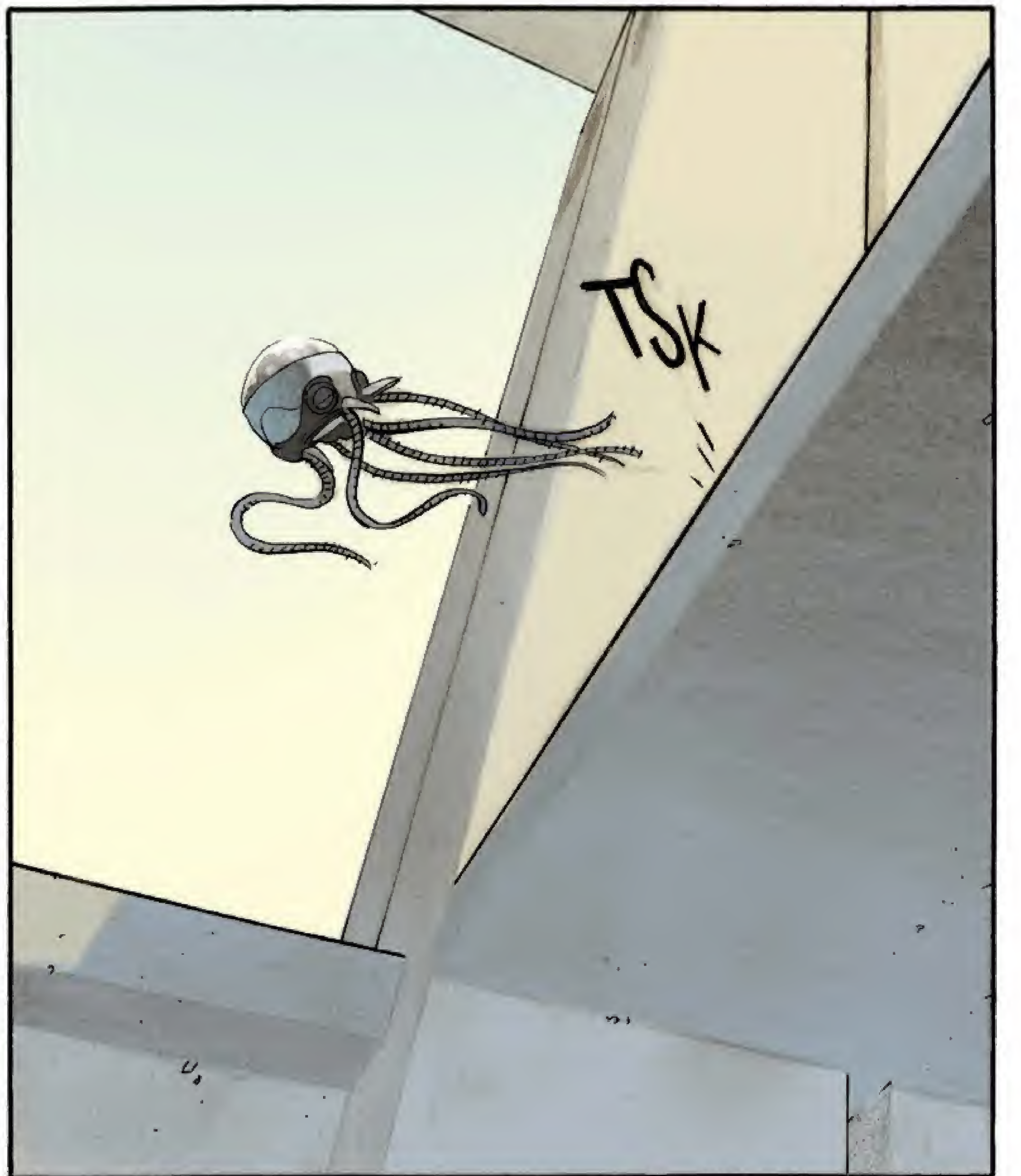
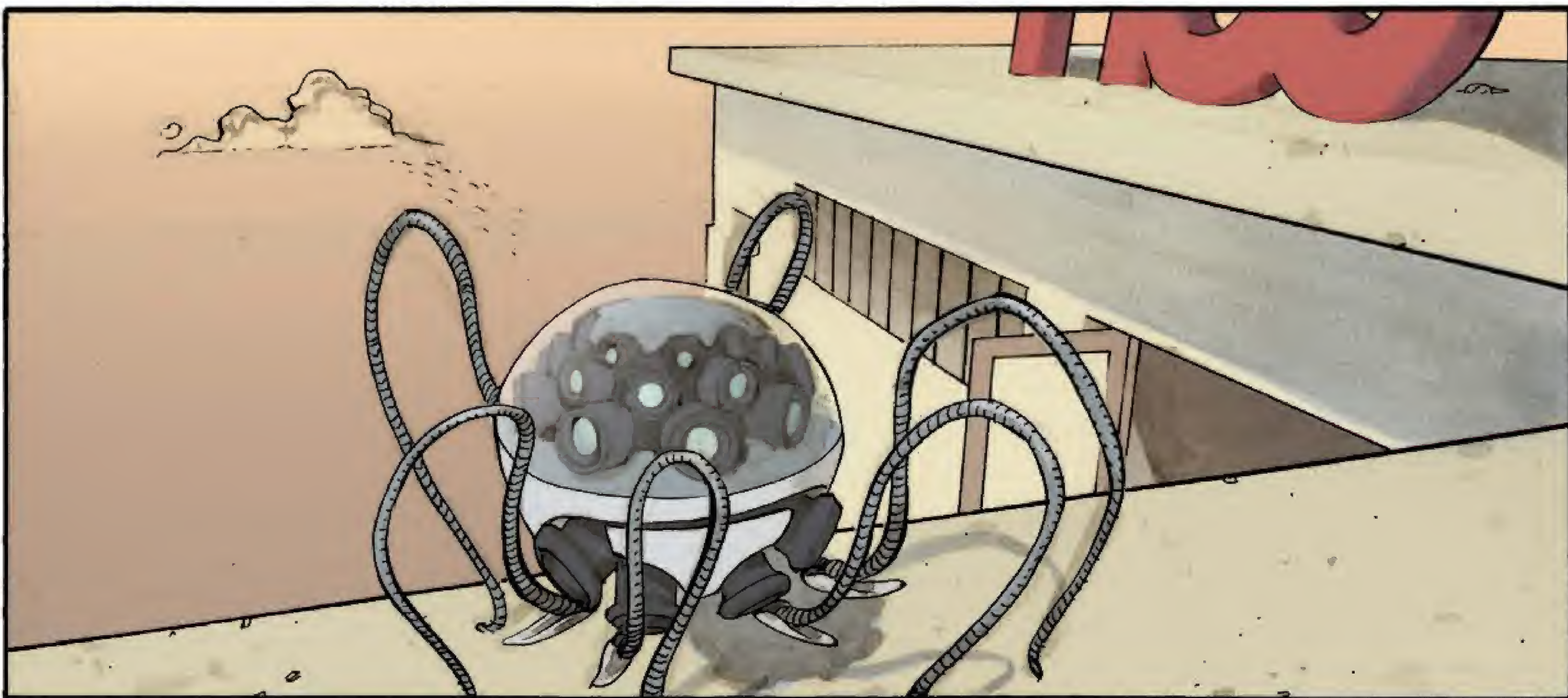
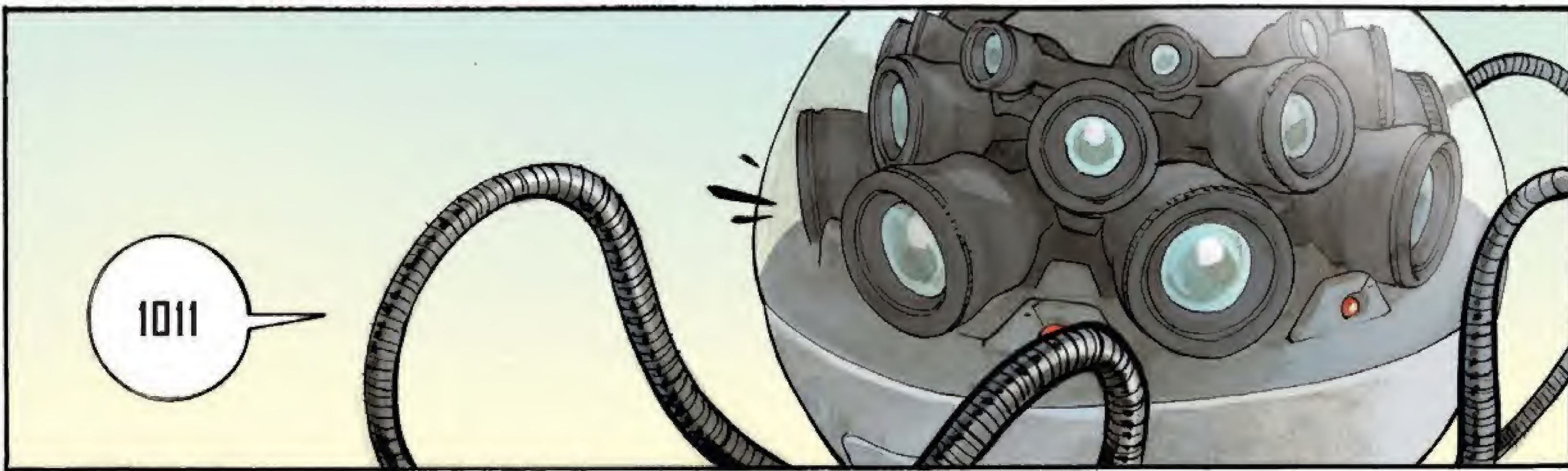
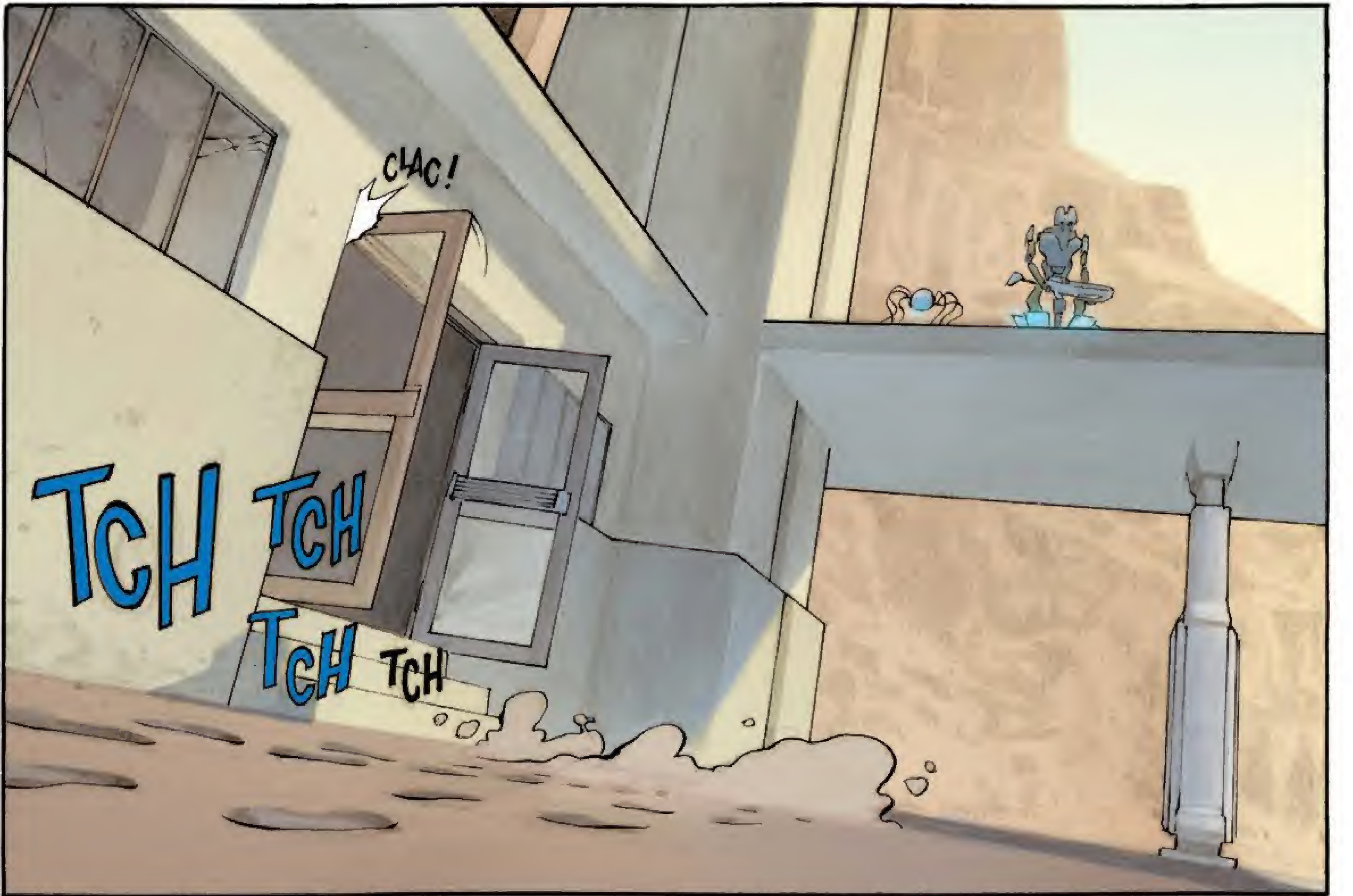
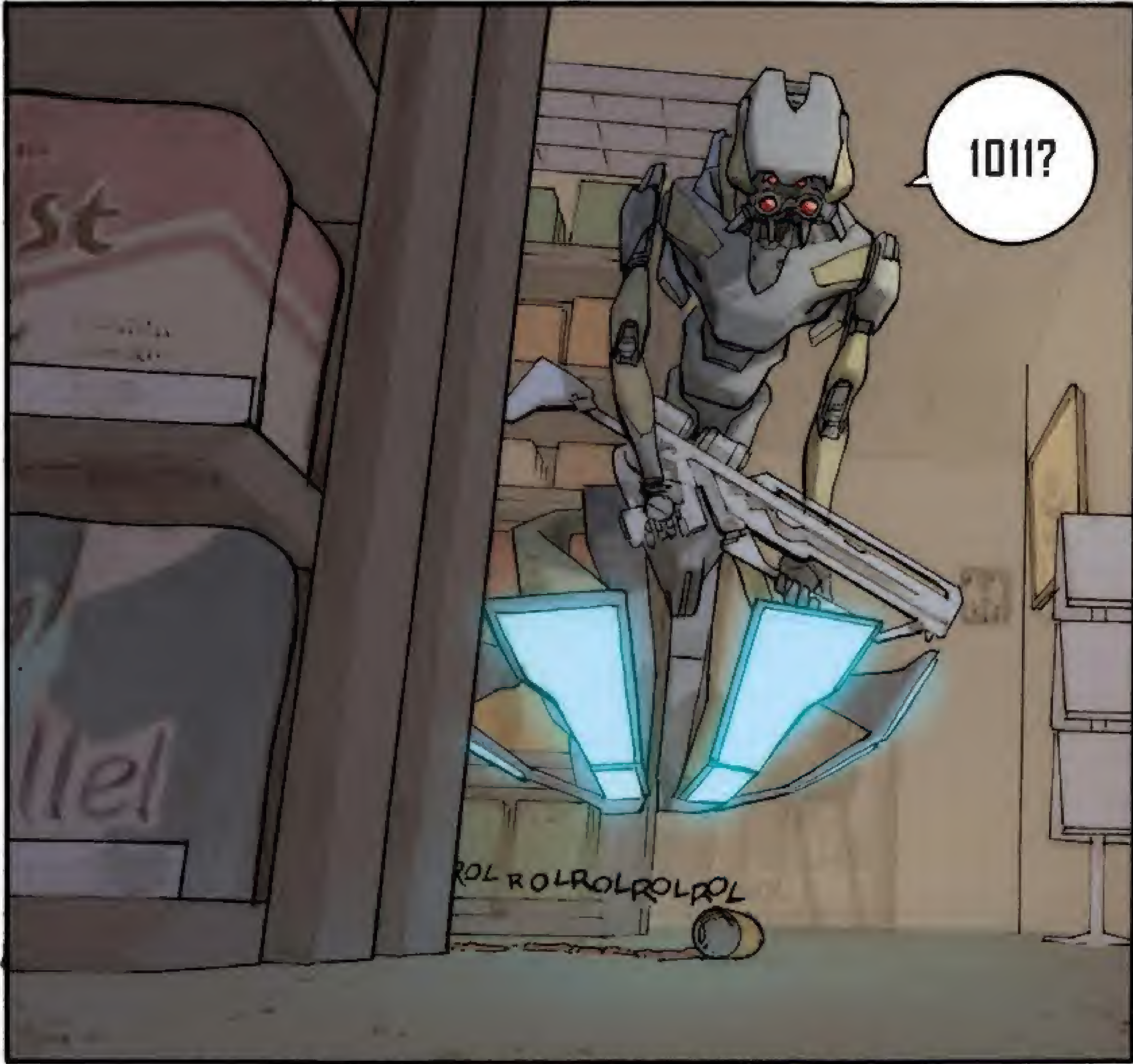
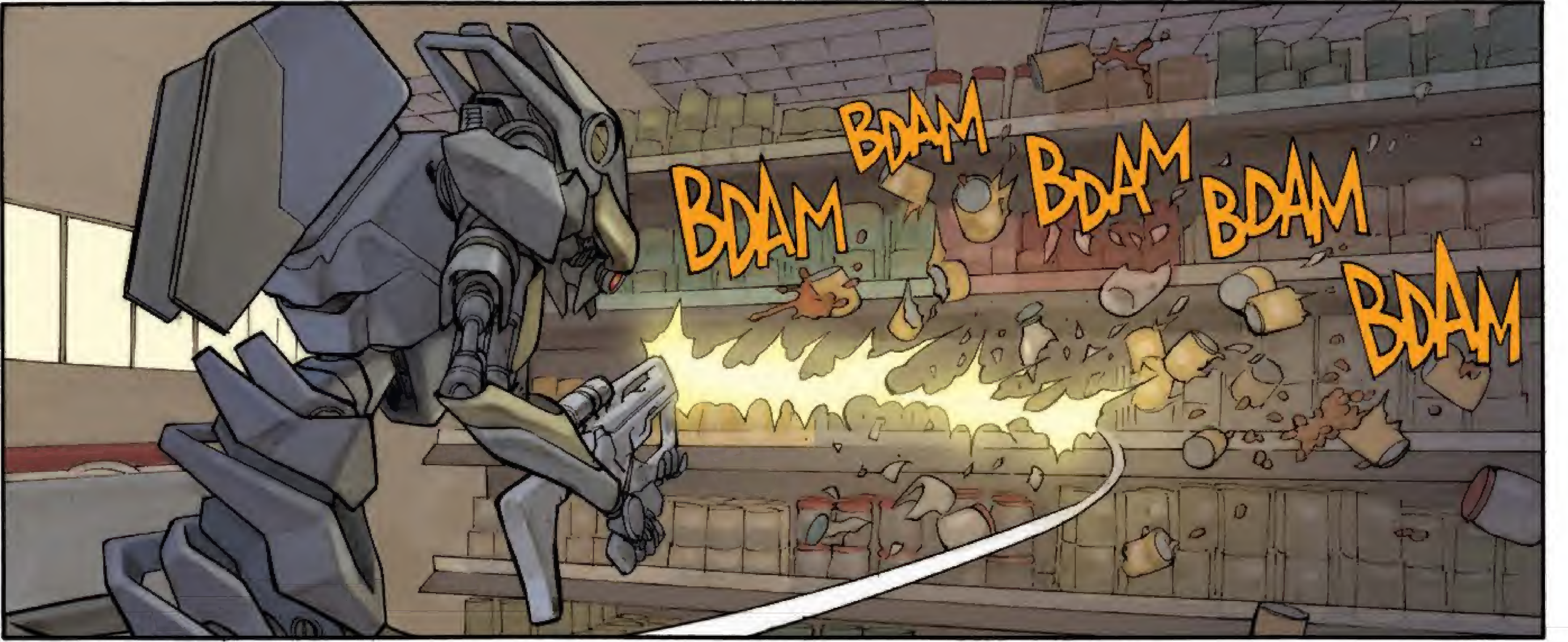
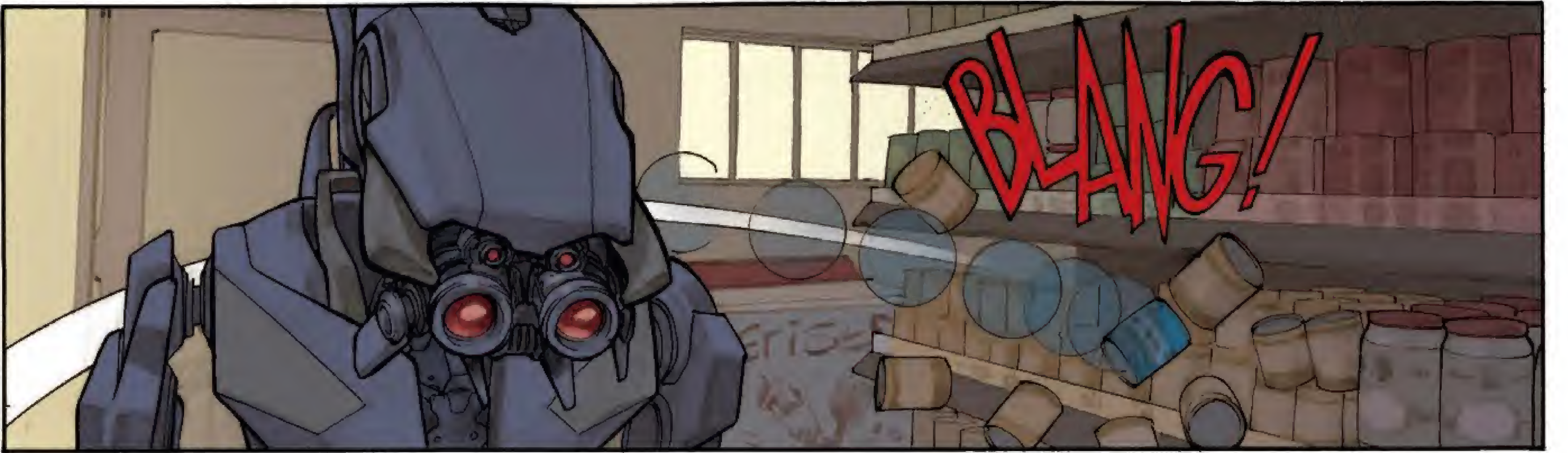


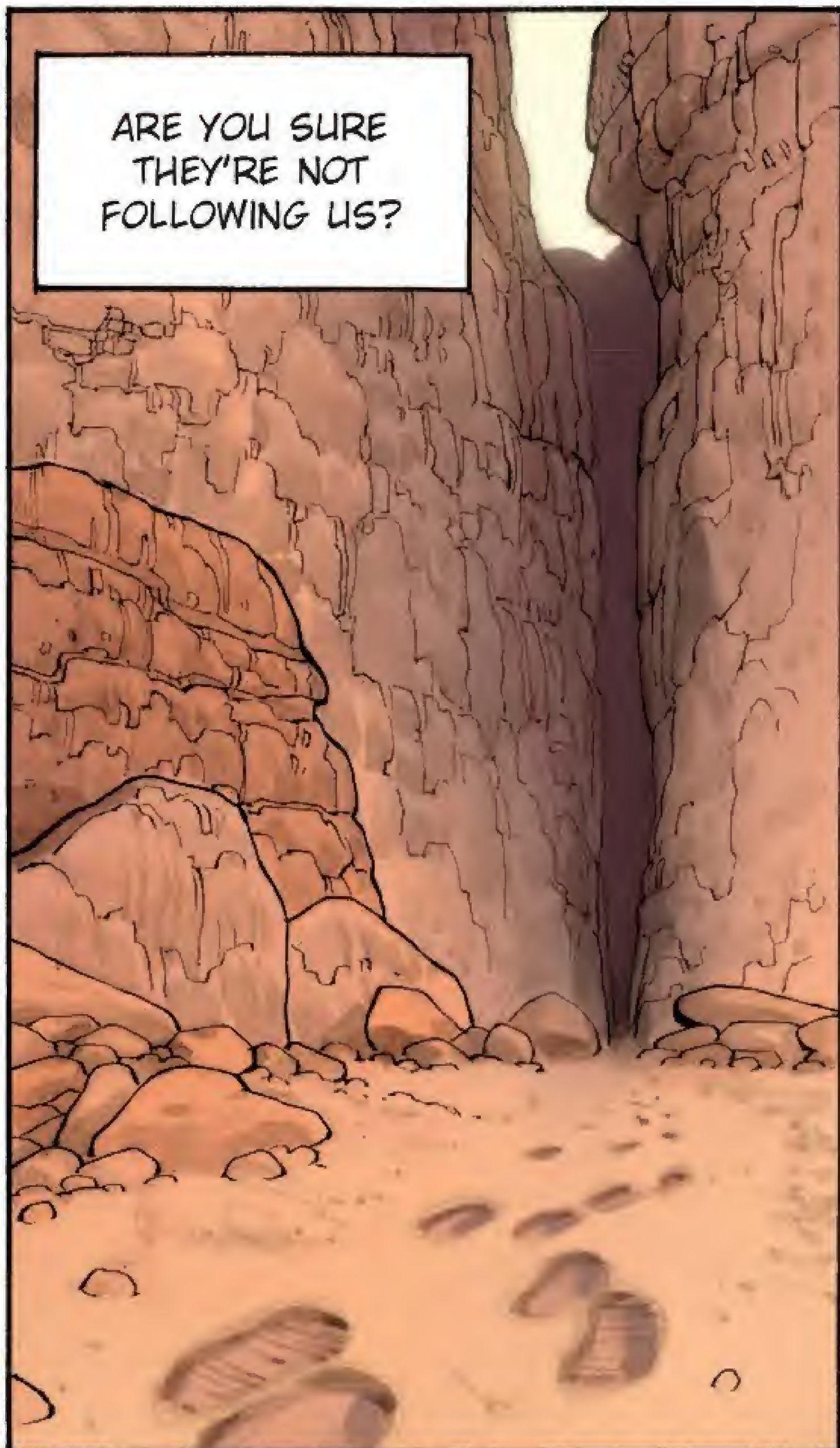
AND THEN...



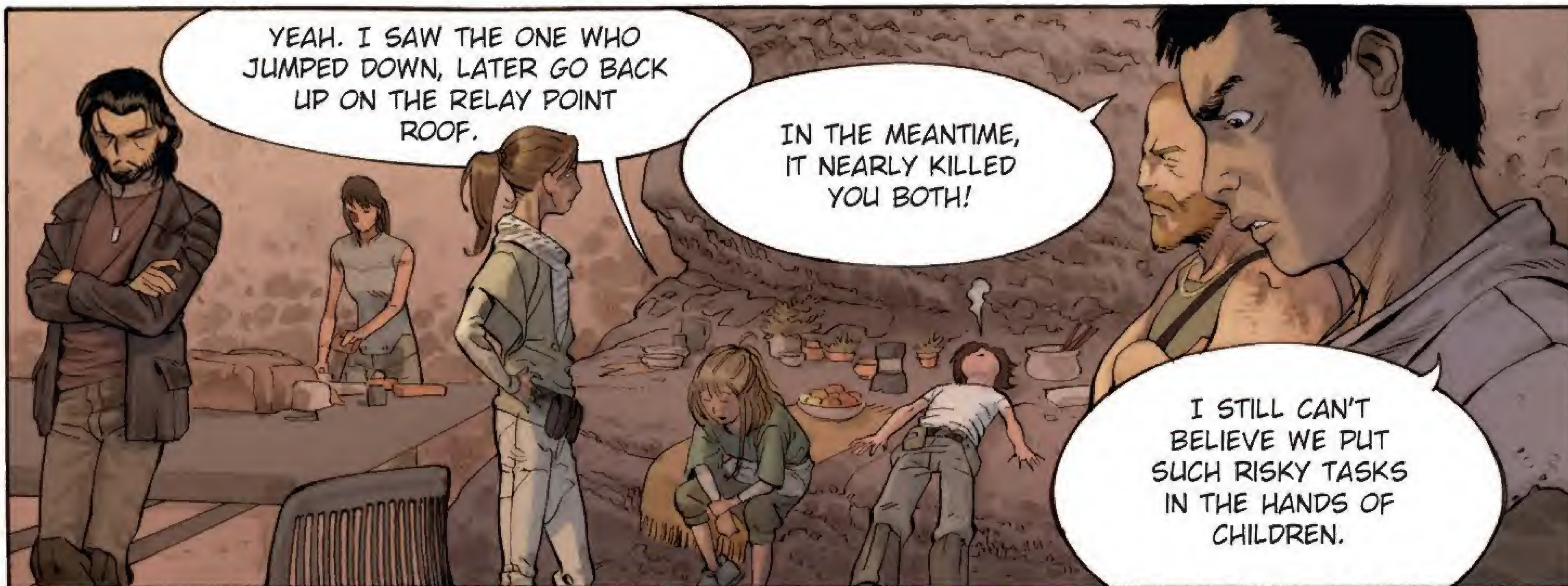








ARE YOU SURE
THEY'RE NOT
FOLLOWING US?



YEAH. I SAW THE ONE WHO
JUMPED DOWN, LATER GO BACK
UP ON THE RELAY POINT
ROOF.

IN THE MEANTIME,
IT NEARLY KILLED
YOU BOTH!

I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE WE PUT
SUCH RISKY TASKS
IN THE HANDS OF
CHILDREN.



WHY DON'T YOU WALTZ
OVER THERE YOURSELF,
THEN?

I CAN'T, BECAUSE
OF MY LEG. YOU KNOW
THAT.

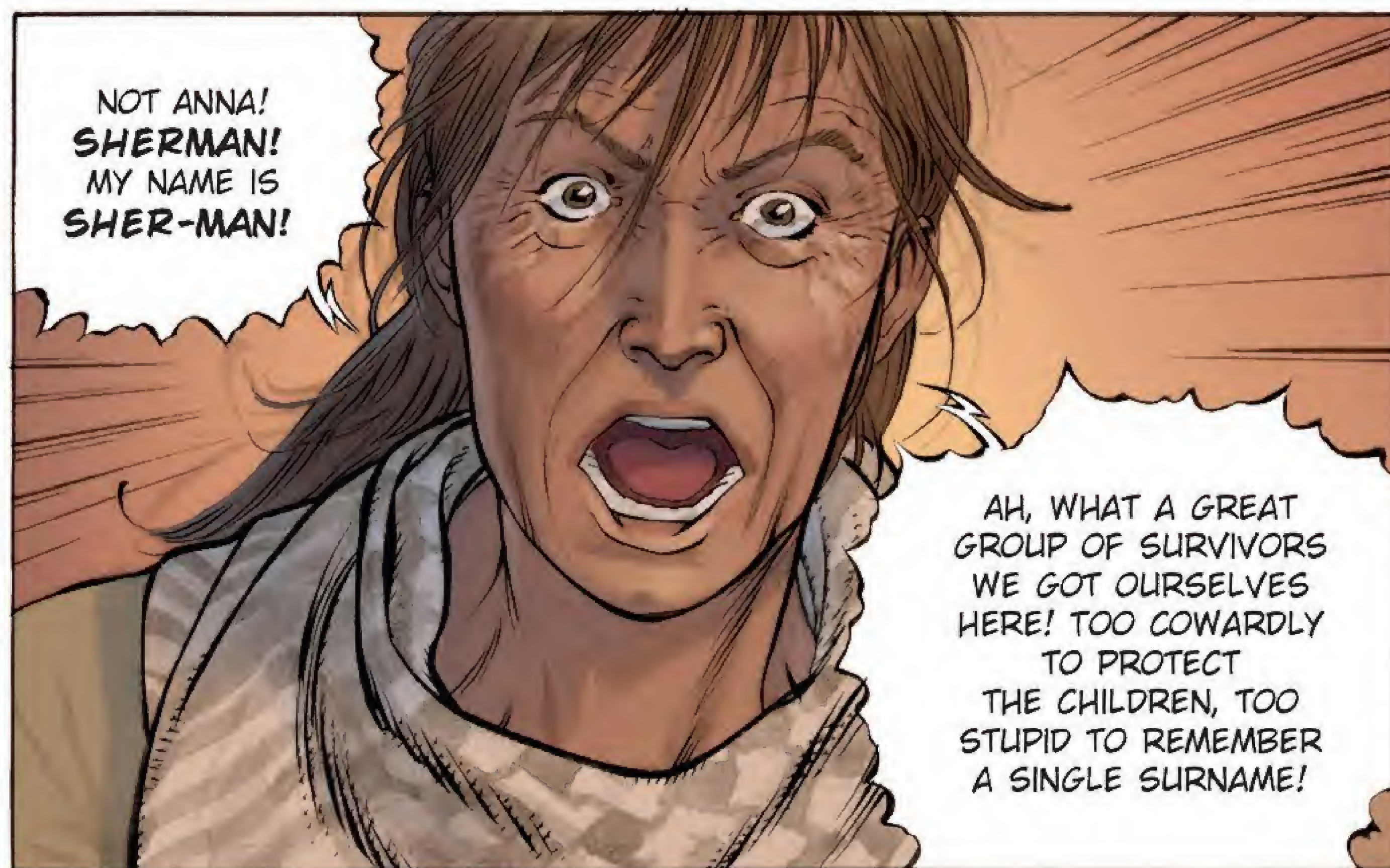


WE'RE ALREADY BUSY
WITH TAKING CARE OF
WATER. EACH MAN
HAS A JOB, RIGHT?

HERE WE GO
AGAIN.



YOU GOT A
PROBLEM,
ANNA?



NOT ANNA!
SHERMAN!
MY NAME IS
SHER-MAN!

AH, WHAT A GREAT
GROUP OF SURVIVORS
WE GOT OURSELVES
HERE! TOO COWARDLY
TO PROTECT
THE CHILDREN, TOO
STUPID TO REMEMBER
A SINGLE SURNAME!



C'MON, CHILL. WE'RE ALL
ON EDGE. THE KIDS
WERE IN DANGER,
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

SHH! DO YOU NOT
HEAR SOMETHING?



MY
GOD...

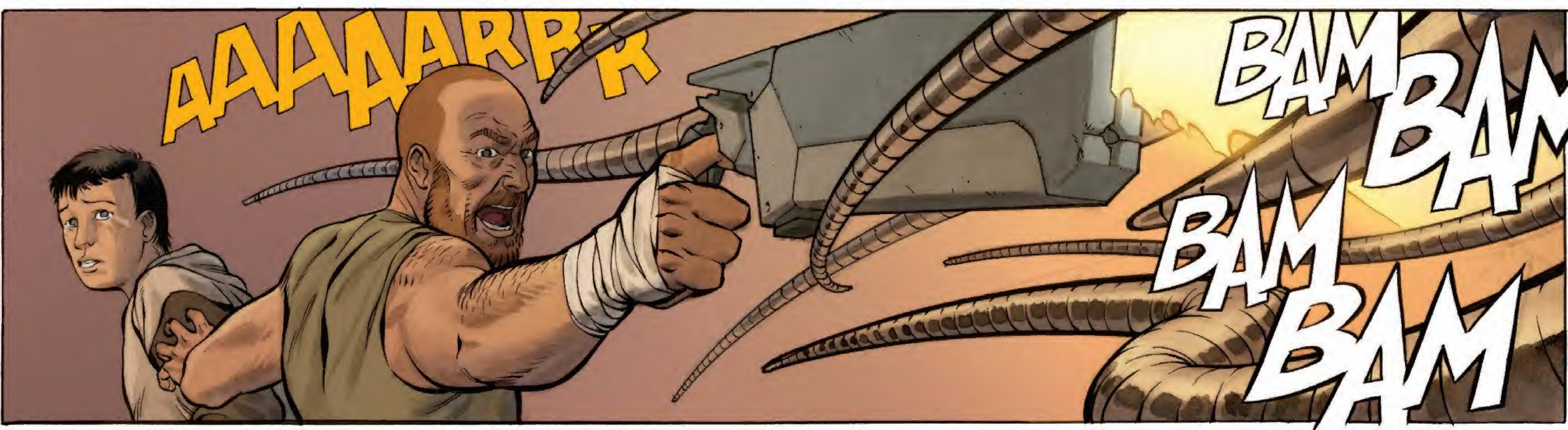
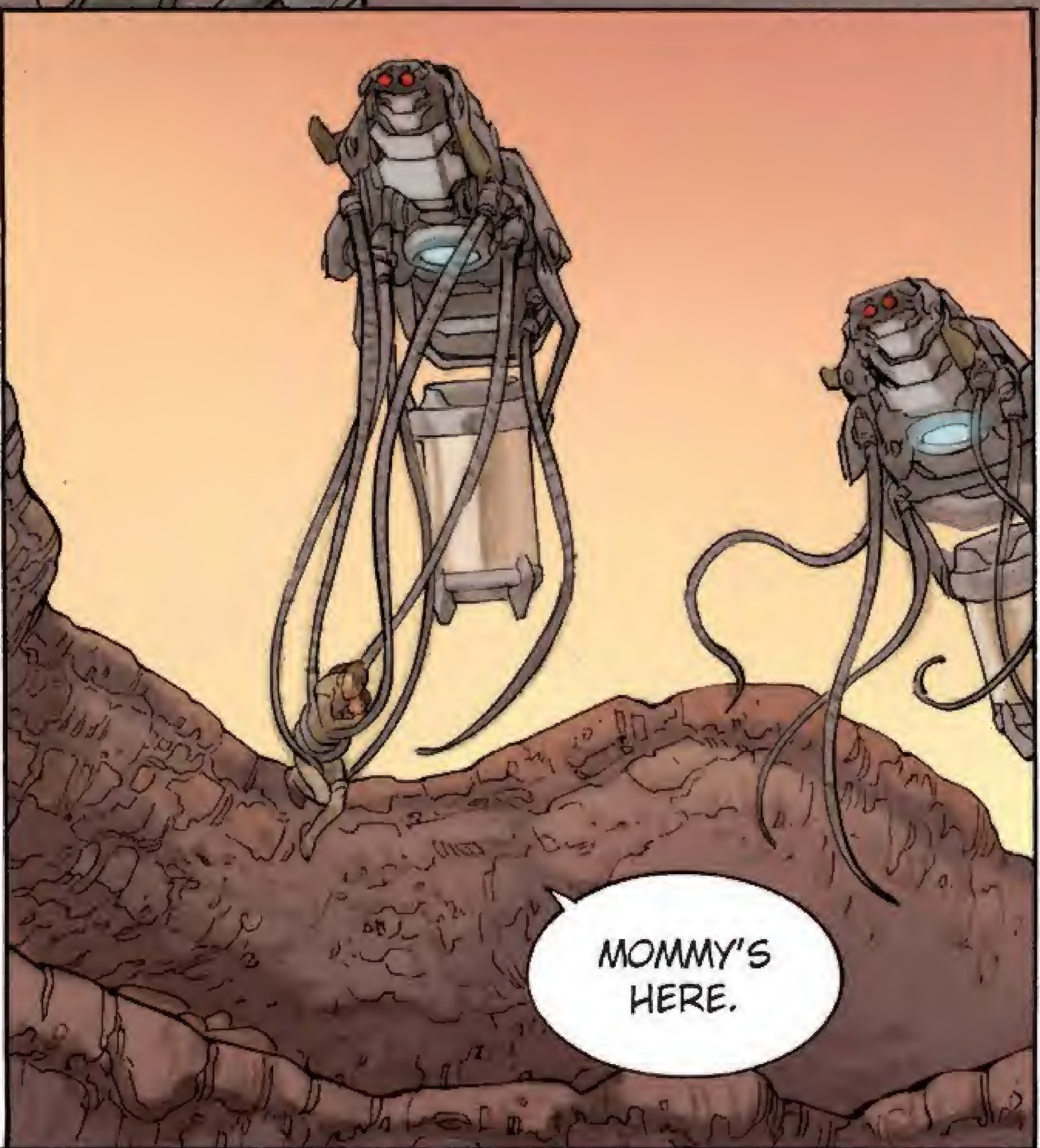
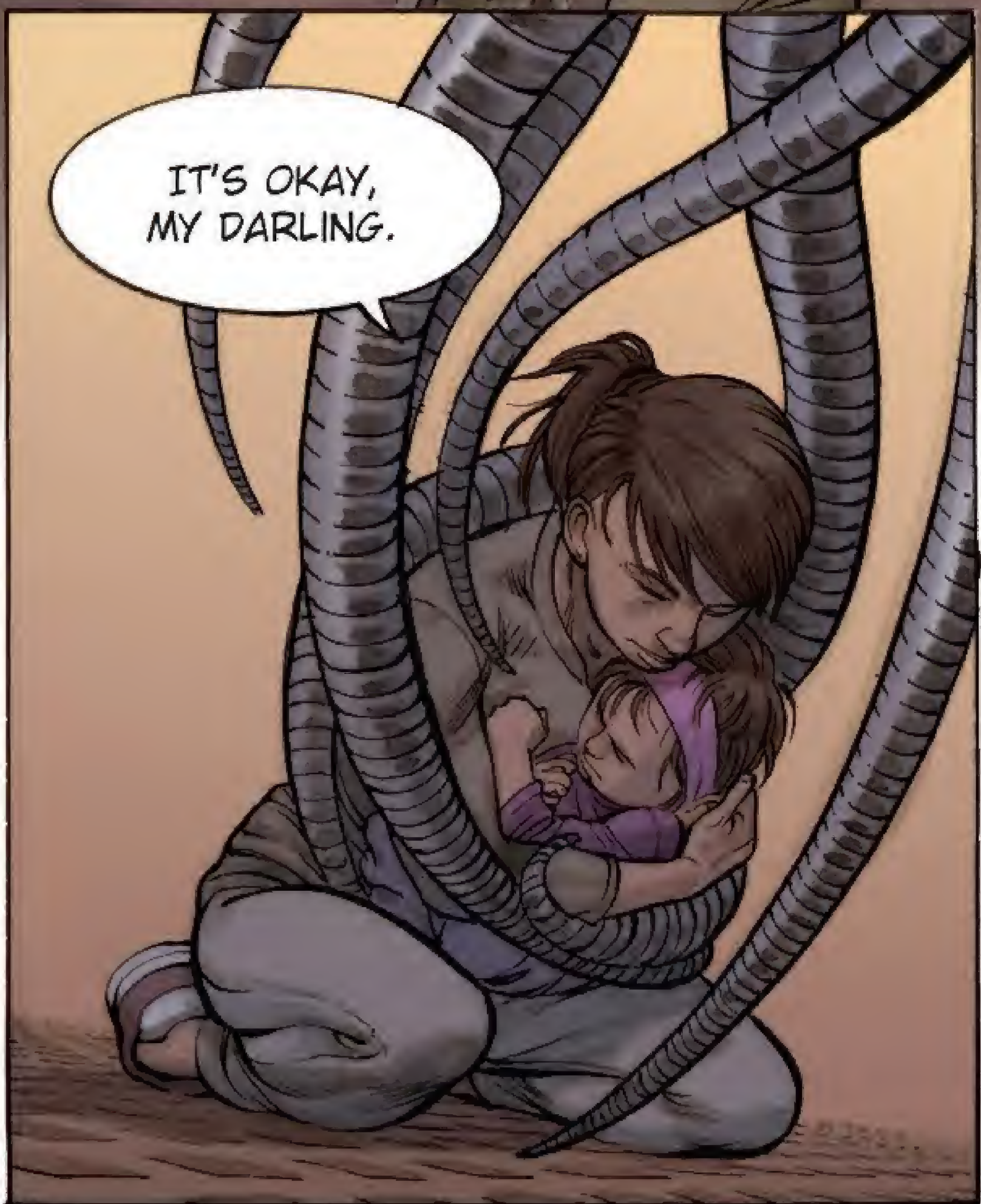


IT AIN'T
THE GENERATOR!

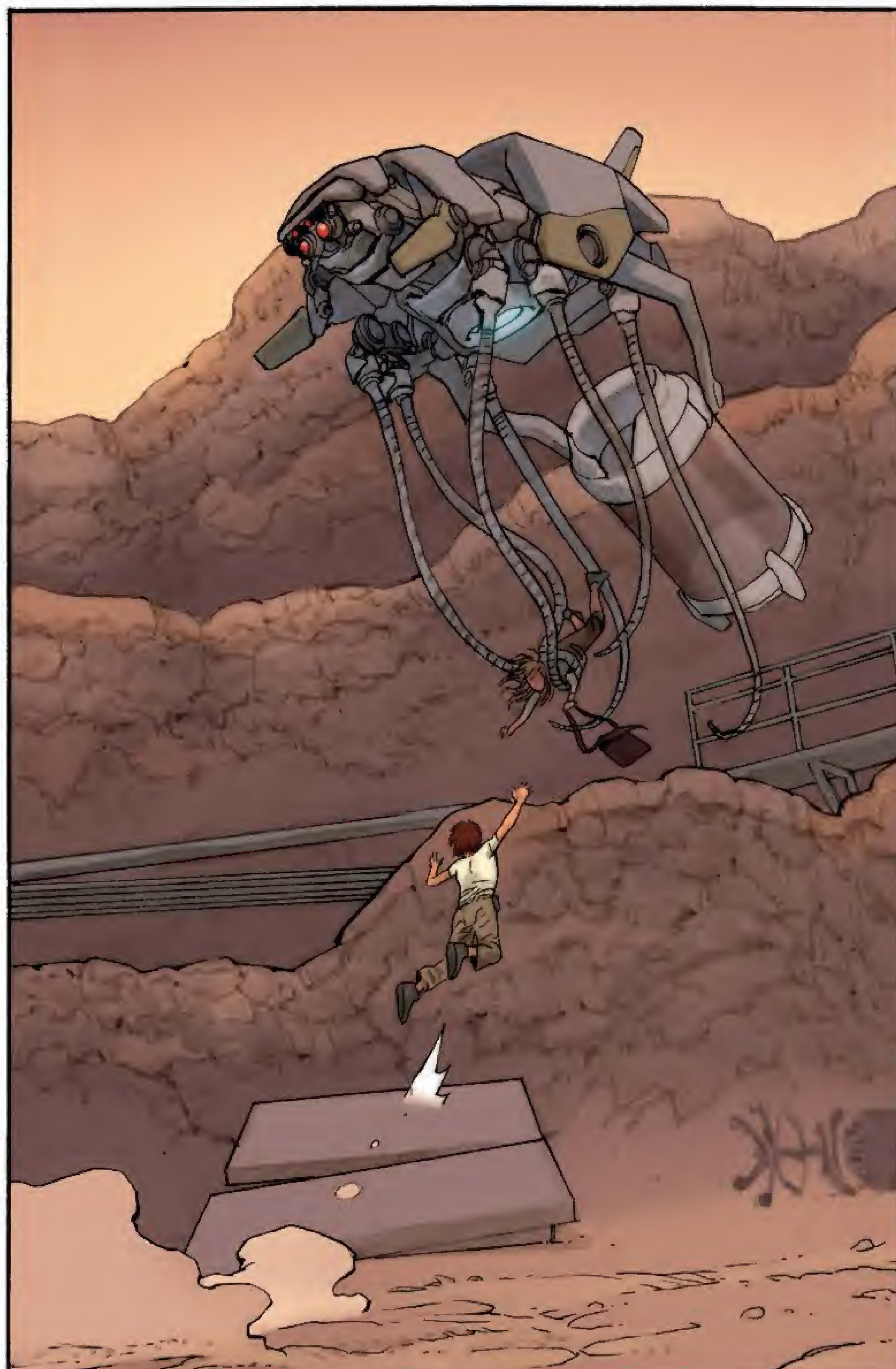
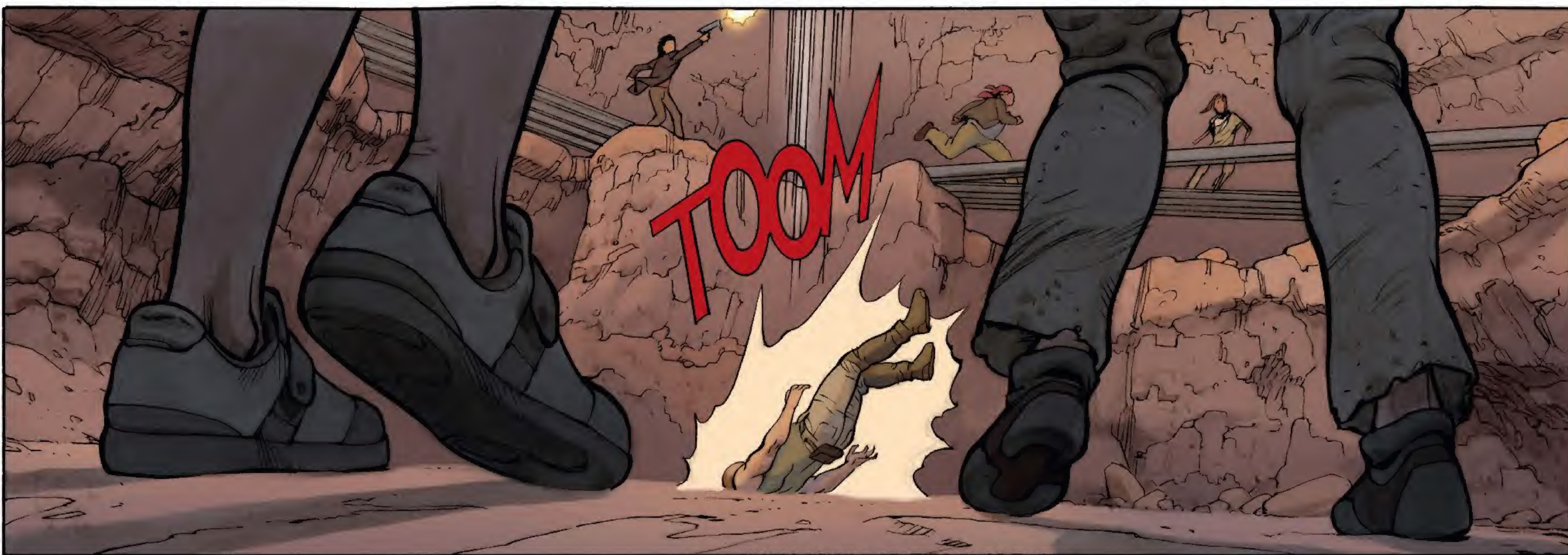
NO, IT'S
COMING FROM
OUTSIDE.
LISTEN!

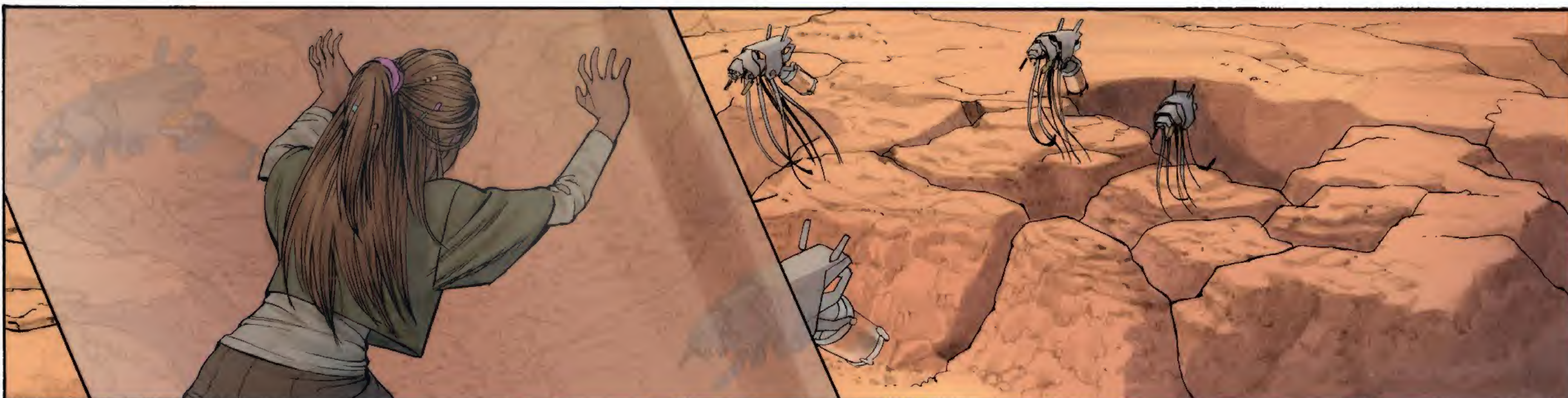
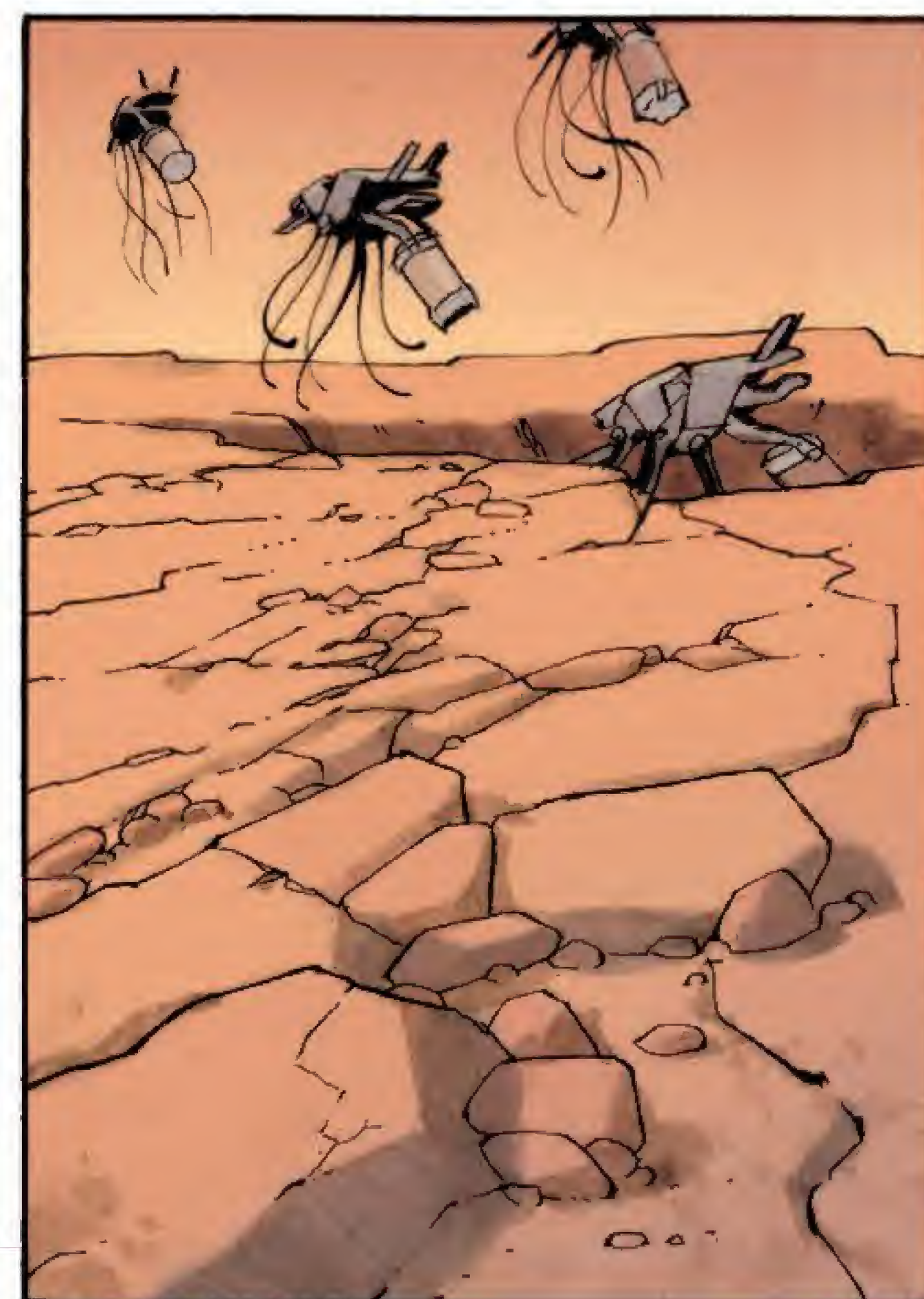
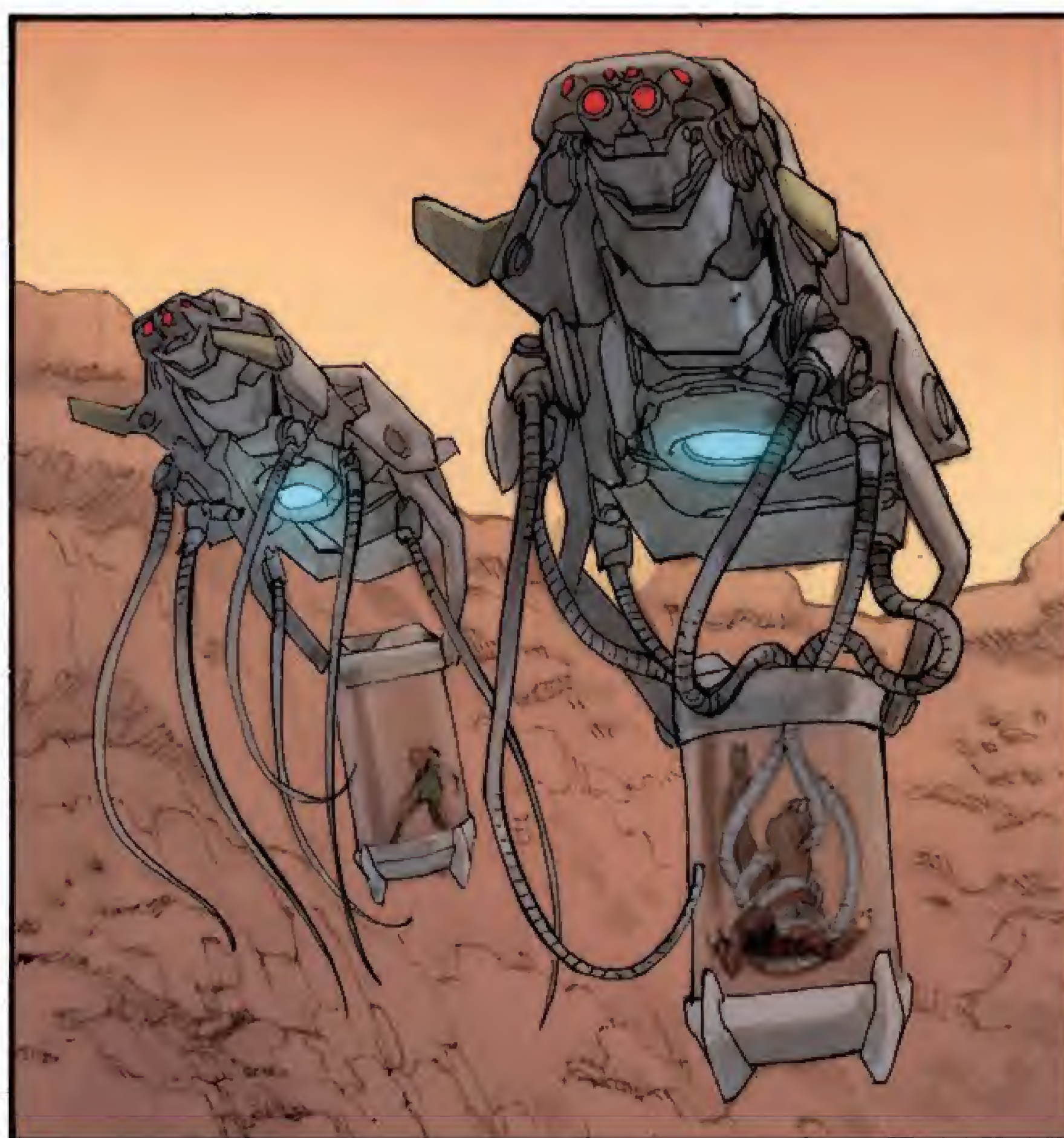
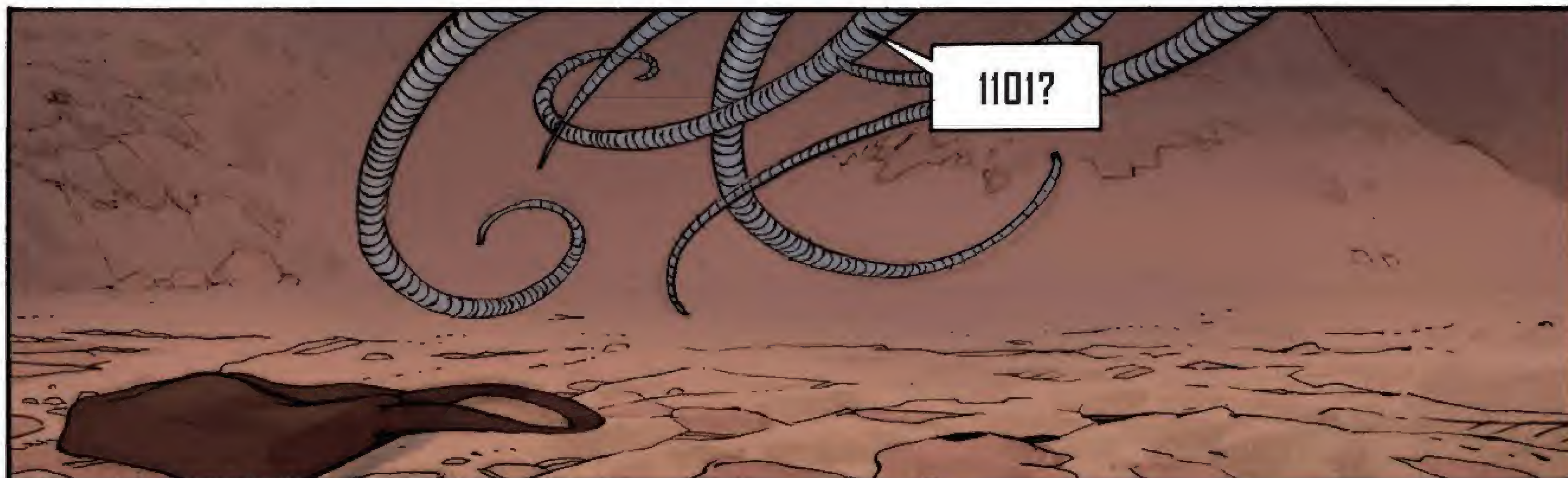
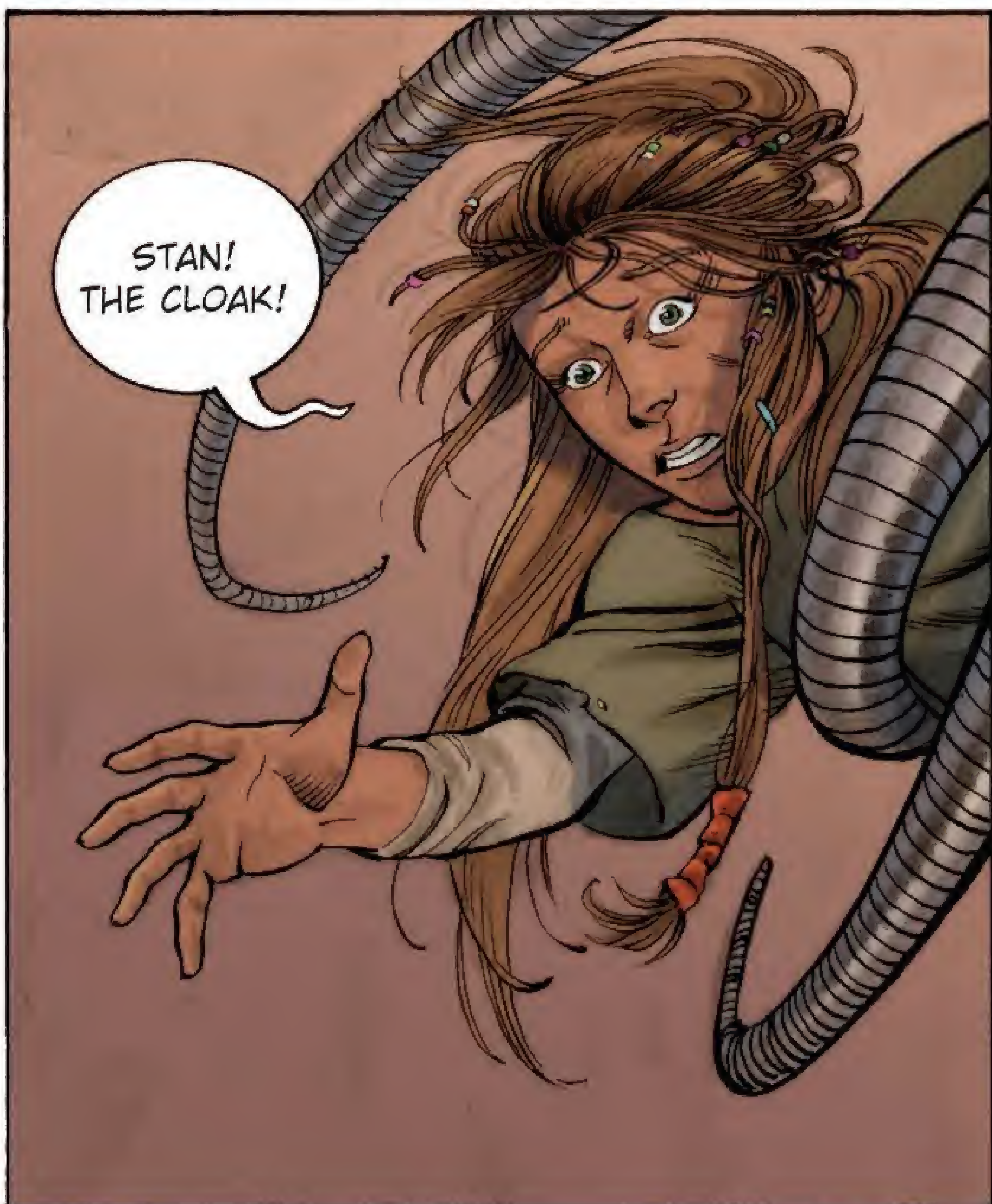


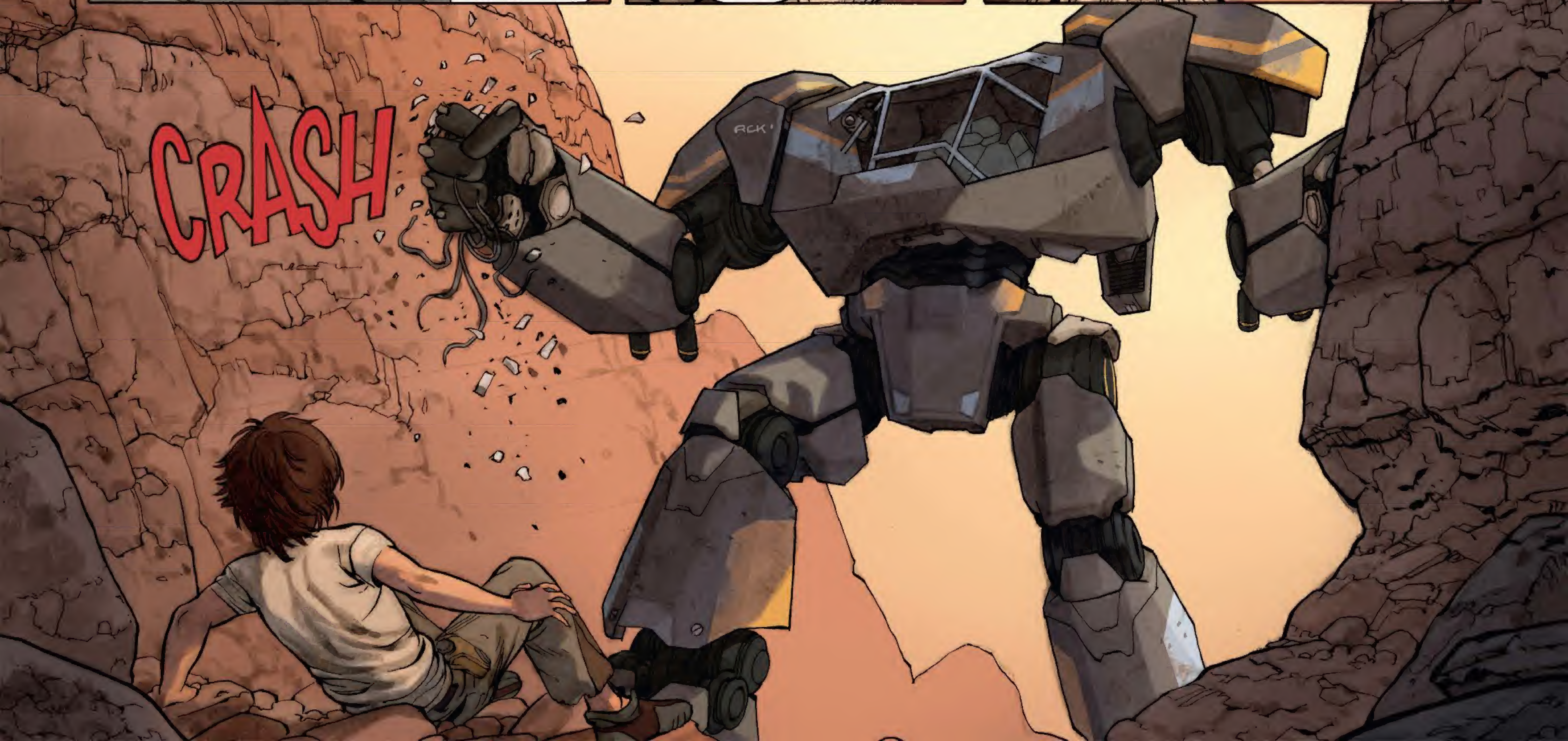
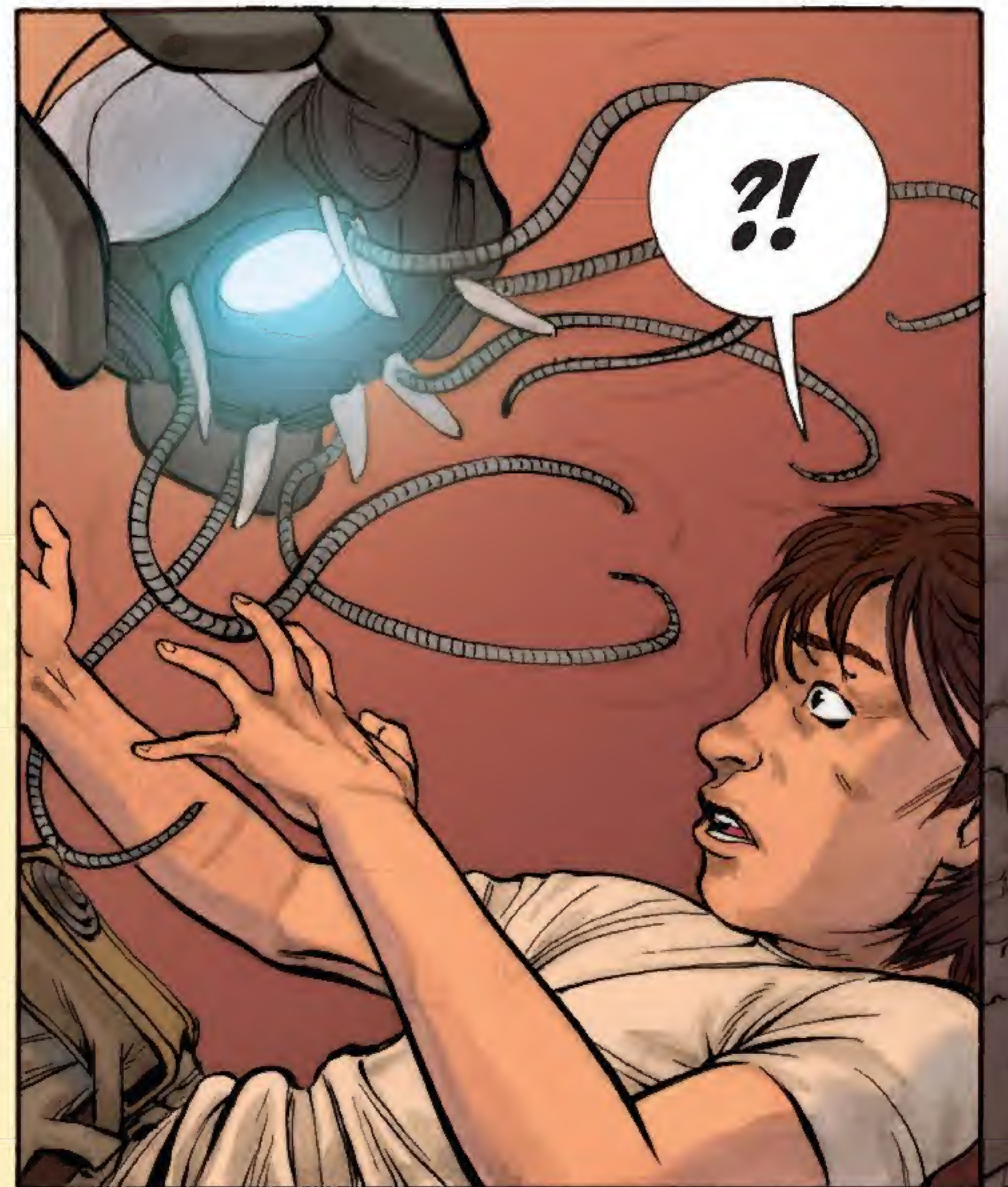
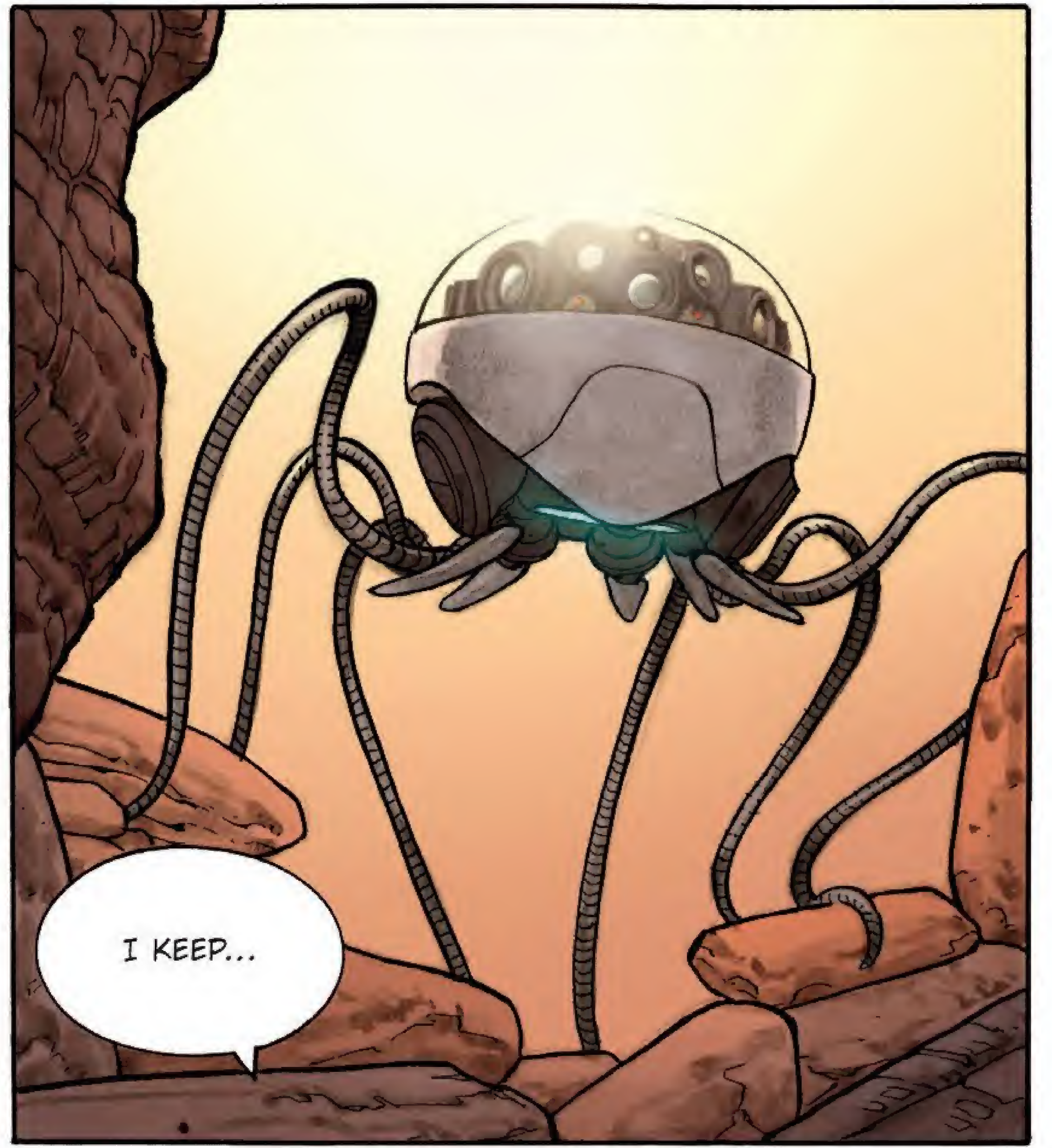
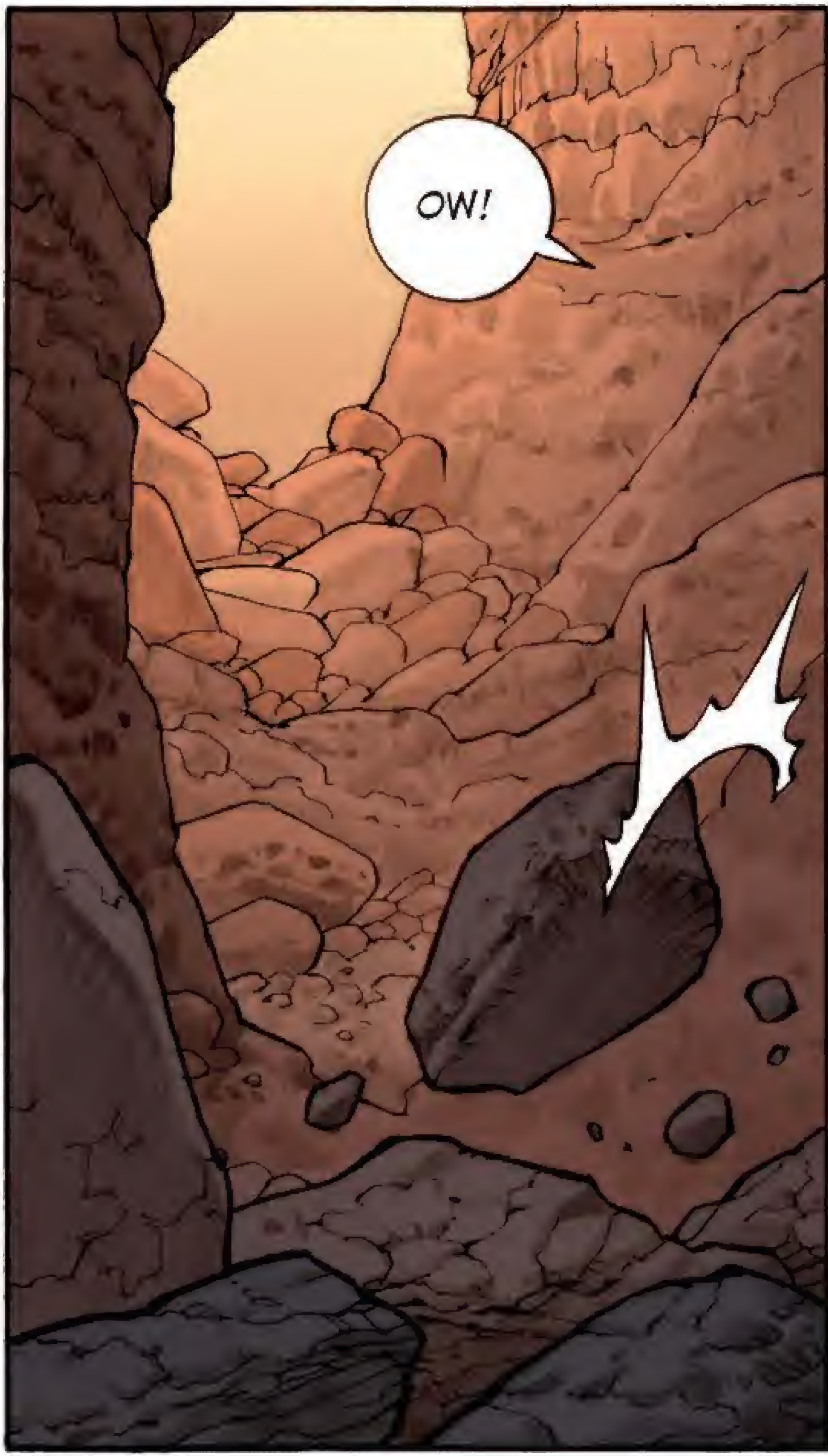
Subjects, stay near immobilization units!
All resistance will be punished with death!

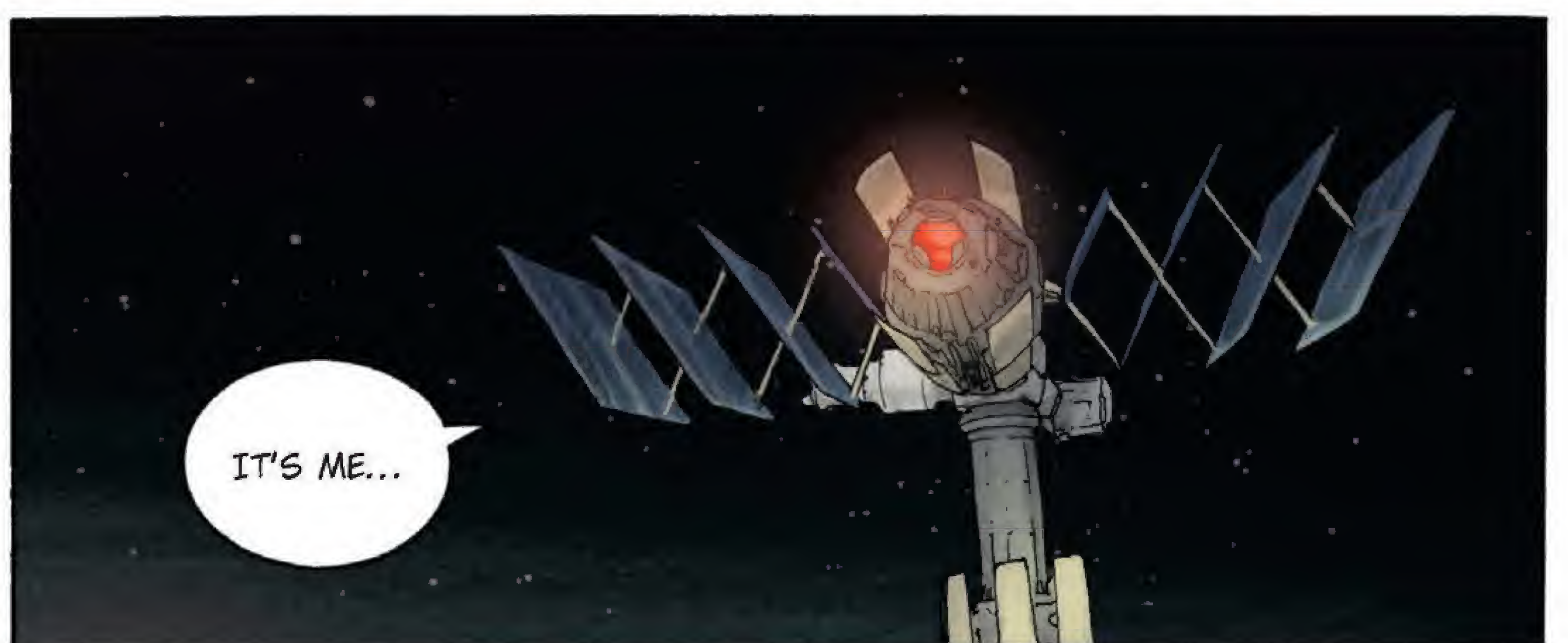
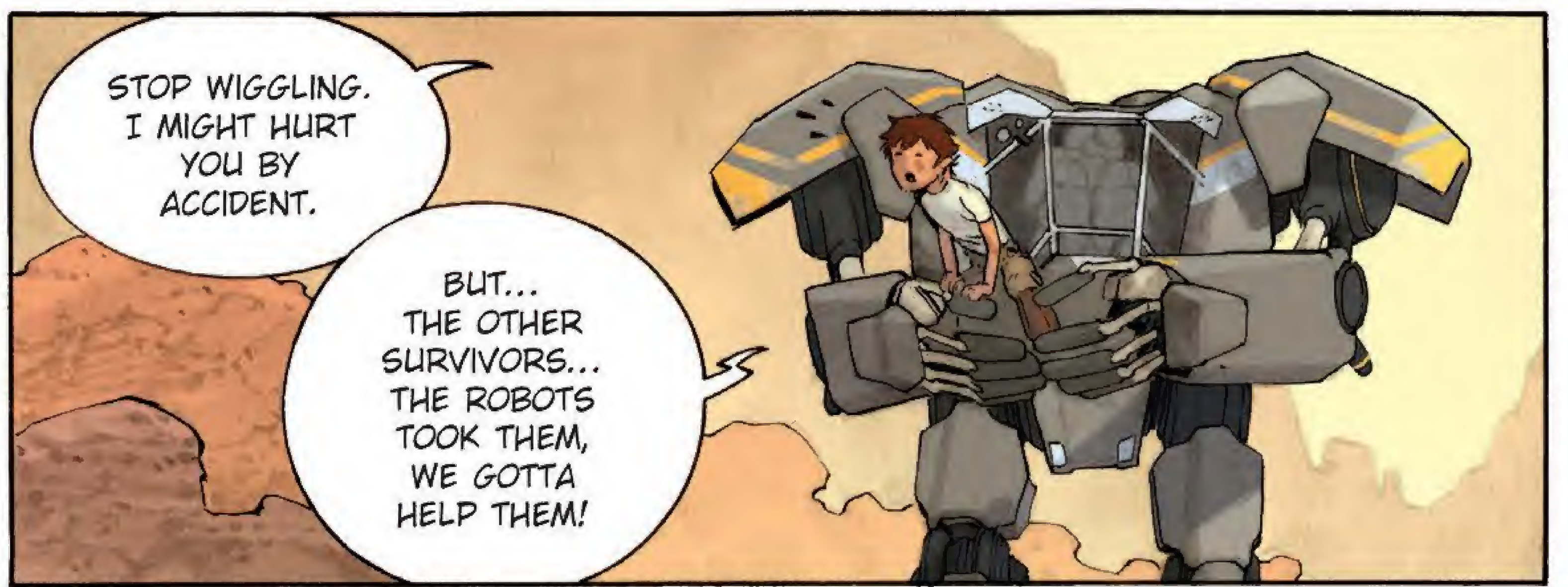
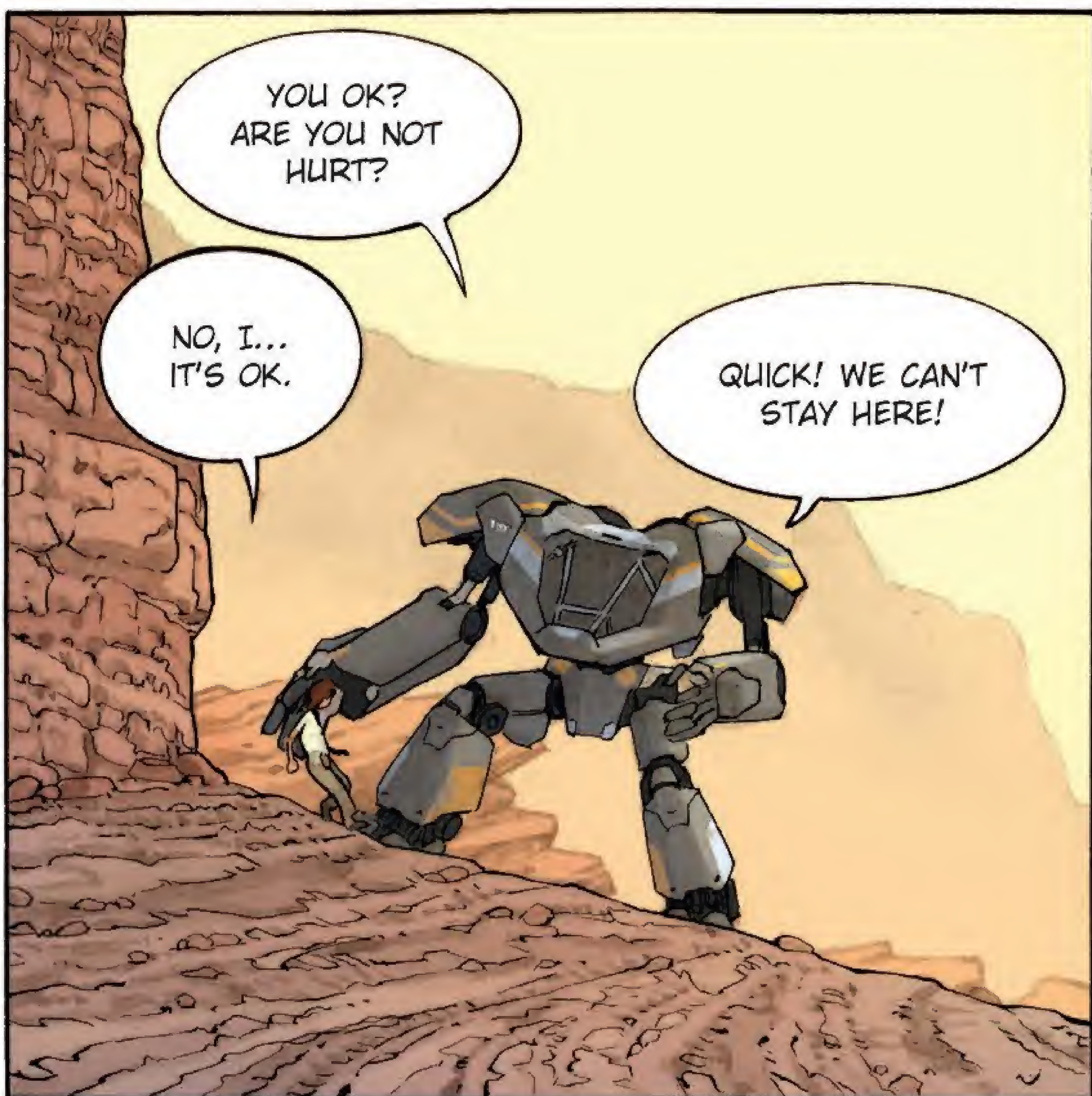


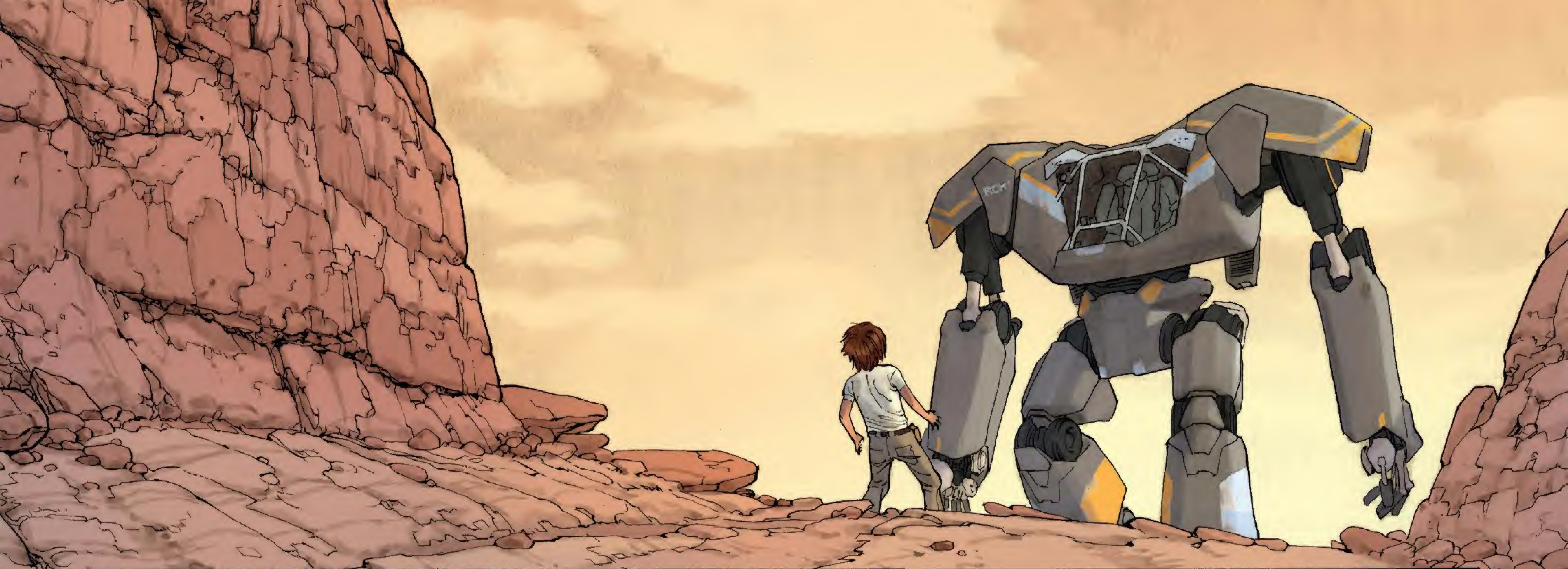
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM











DAD?
HOW... ?

AT THE START OF THE WAR, HAIVÉ WIPED
OUT OUR COMPUTERIZED DEFENSES,
AND OUR GREATEST MILITARY
ROBOTS SUCCEMDED
TO ITS CONTROL.

WE HAD TO
IMPROVISE.

I VOLUNTEERED TO PUT MYSELF IN
A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE. WE HAD
TO EQUIP IT WITH AN ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE CANNON, CAPABLE OF NEUTRALIZING
HAIVÉ FROM SPACE.

BUT OUR LAST
LINES OF DEFENSE
GAVE WAY TOO
SOON...

AND THE ROCKET
THAT SHOULD HAVE
BROUGHT THE CANNON
UP, NEVER LEFT
THE GROUND.



AFTER A FEW MONTHS,
I MANAGED TO HACK IN
TO THIS OLD RCK1 FROM
THE SATELLITE.

AND THE OTHER
NIGHT? WHEN
YOU ATTACKED
SANDY AND ME?



I'M SORRY.

THE LACK OF SLEEP...
I WAS AT MY WITS' END.
THE SATELLITE PUT ME IN A STATE
OF FORCED SLEEP. AND I LOST
CONTROL OF THIS, WELL,
"ROCKY".



OF COURSE, HAIVÉ
DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO
LEARN ABOUT IT. BUT NOW,
I KNOW HOW TO GET
AROUND ITS FIREWALLS....

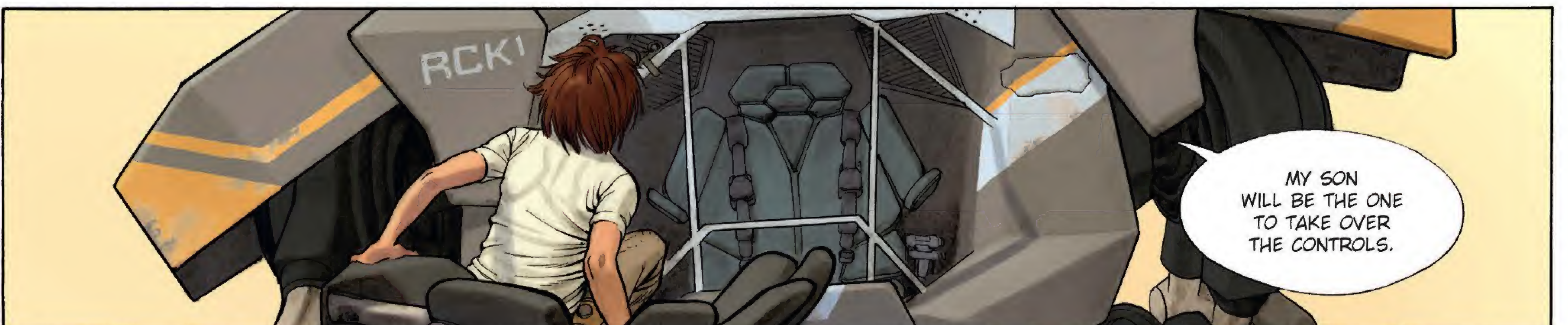
UNTIL THE NEXT
TIME YOU'RE
TIRED.

TRUE.

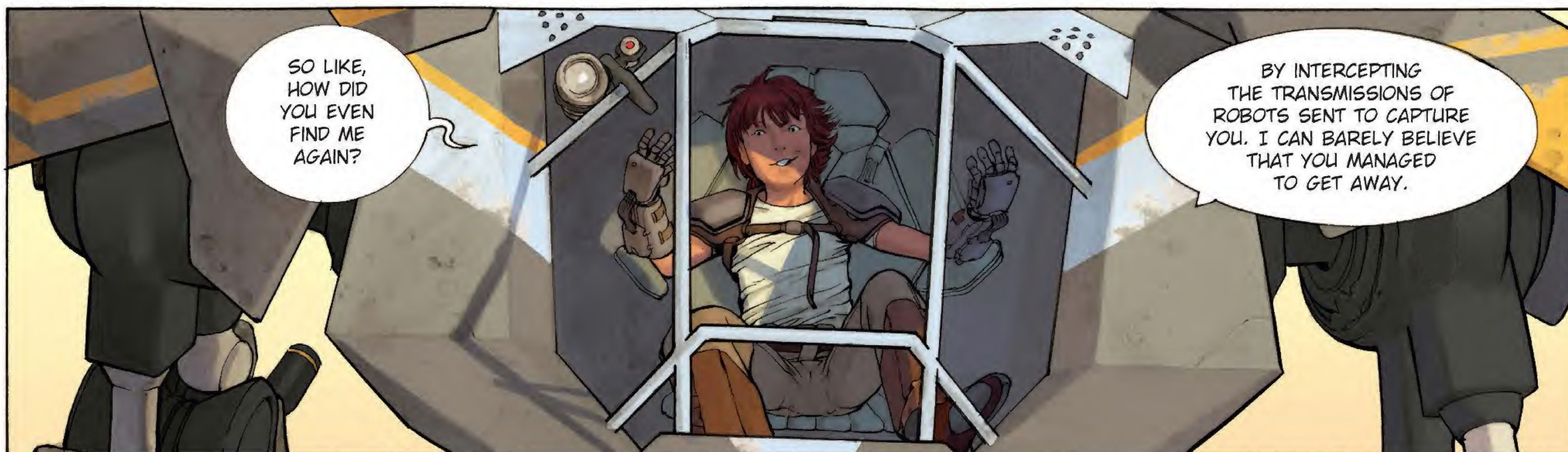


BUT
I UNDERSTOOD
SOMETHING.

WHEN IT HAPPENS
AGAIN...



MY SON
WILL BE THE ONE
TO TAKE OVER
THE CONTROLS.



SO LIKE,
HOW DID
YOU EVEN
FIND ME
AGAIN?

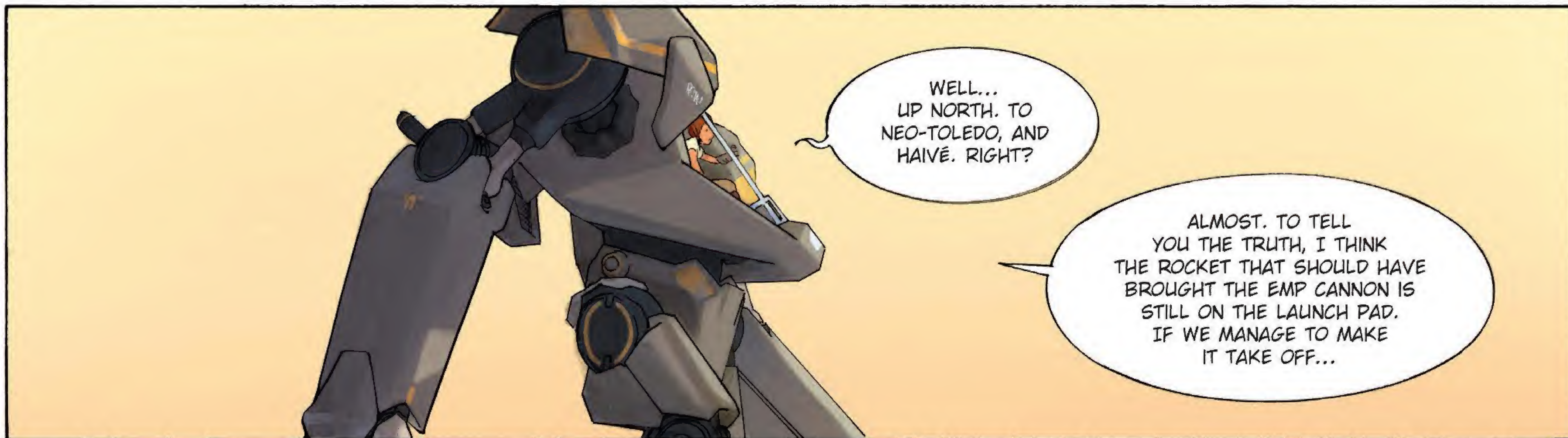
BY INTERCEPTING
THE TRANSMISSIONS OF
ROBOTS SENT TO CAPTURE
YOU. I CAN BARELY BELIEVE
THAT YOU MANAGED
TO GET AWAY.



RIGHT, ENOUGH
CHITCHAT, TIME
TO GO!

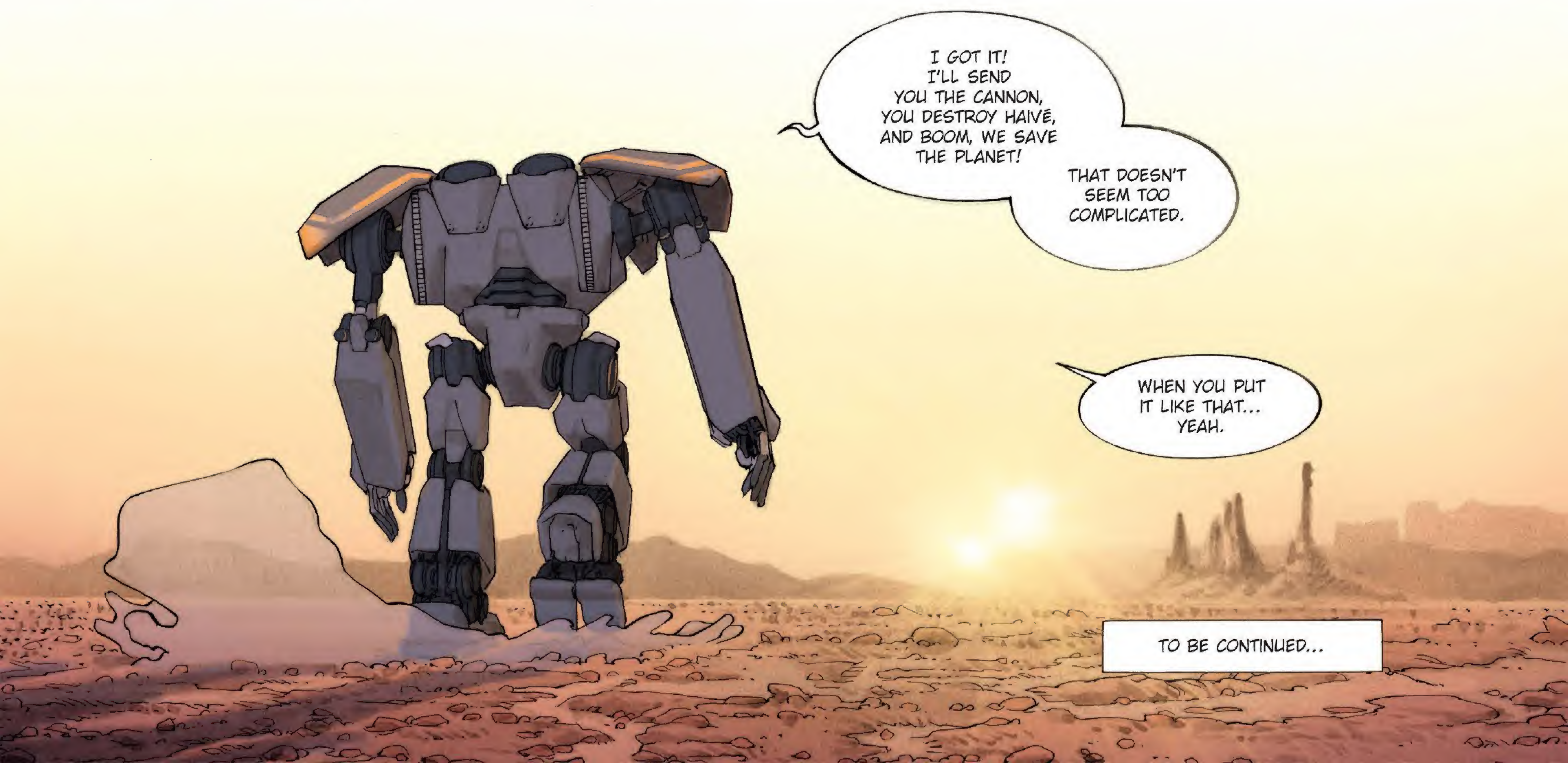
PENG!
PENG!

YOU KNOW
WHERE WE'RE
HEADED?



WELL...
UP NORTH. TO
NEO-TOLEDO, AND
HAIVÉ. RIGHT?

ALMOST. TO TELL
YOU THE TRUTH, I THINK
THE ROCKET THAT SHOULD HAVE
BROUGHT THE EMP CANNON IS
STILL ON THE LAUNCH PAD.
IF WE MANAGE TO MAKE
IT TAKE OFF...



I GOT IT!
I'LL SEND
YOU THE CANNON,
YOU DESTROY HAIVÉ,
AND BOOM, WE SAVE
THE PLANET!

THAT DOESN'T
SEEM TOO
COMPLICATED.

WHEN YOU PUT
IT LIKE THAT...
YEAH.

TO BE CONTINUED...